



Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Tuesday
18 January 1994

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Central African Republic

President Comments on Effects of Devaluation

LD1501214294 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] In the Central African Republic, President Ange-Felix Patasse has spoken for the first time since the devaluation of the CFA franc, a few days ago, that is to say, last Tuesday evening [11 January]. He said that he had accepted and signed the devaluation measure for the sake of maintaining a consensus with the other CFA heads of state. In a televised address yesterday evening, the President of the Central African Republic announced follow-up measures to the devaluation and, as you will hear, also issued a stern warning to would-be speculators:

[Begin Patasse recording] This adjustment cannot be regarded as a catastrophe if we can manage our economy properly. However, it is obvious that I will not tolerate destabilizing actions by speculators. Likewise, I hereby give warning to anyone who may be tempted to raise the prices of their merchandise, for their trading permits will be immediately withdrawn. I also give warning to the troublemakers, to those who take advantage of the slightest occurrence to sow disorder without concern for the future of our country. [end recording]

Decree Issued on Price Freeze

AB1601181194 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] President Ange-Felix Patasse signed a decree on 15 January which reads as follows:

Decree 94 on the regulation of prices of goods and services in the Central African Republic:

The head of state, at the recommendation of the minister of commerce and industry, decrees:

Article 1: Prices for all goods and services in the whole of the Central African Republic are to be maintained at their 12 January levels until further notice.

Article 2: Prices for all goods and services are to be endorsed by the competent authorities at the Ministry of Commerce before being displayed to the public. To this end, a goods and services control committee has been instituted.

Article 3: The Ministry of Commerce will take all the necessary regulatory measures to implement the present decree.

Article 4: The present decree abrogates all previous regulatory measures and takes effect on the date of signing. It will be recorded and published in the Official Gazette.

Issued in Bangui on 15 January.

[Signed] President Ange-Felix Patasse

Prime Minister Explains Measures

AB1401215694 Paris AFP in French 1418 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Bangui, 13 Jan (AFP)—Prime Minister Jean-Luc Mandaba of the Central African Republic announced here today the institution of price control measures in his country to "cushion the shock" of the 50-percent CFA franc devaluation. Speaking before the National Assembly, the prime minister also announced the setting up of a devaluation backup measures monitoring committee.

The government is studying backup measures needed to ensure the success of the devaluation and to safeguard the "fundamental interests of the business community and the people," he added. Mr. Mandaba believed that the "spin-off effects of the devaluation for his country's economy will be positive in the long run.... Public finance in particular is expected to be consolidated due to an expected increase in fiscal revenue." According to the prime minister, the expected increase in revenue will enable the state "to pay at least part of its internal arrears, especially to civil servants."

"We are expecting a recovery of our external finance, which we need, to beef up our investment recovery policy," he continued, judging—without explaining—that the country's gross domestic product "is expected to increase faster than forecast, by about 4 percent."

French Official Comments on Aid After Devaluation

AB1501063194 Bangui Radiodiffusion-Television Centrafricaine Radio in French 1800 GMT 13 Jan 94

[Text] Following his return on 12 January from the Dakar summit on the CFA franc devaluation and the conference of Air Afrique member states, President Ange-Felix Patasse received French charge d'affaires (Georges Roneaud) on the afternoon of 13 January. The charge came to inform the head of state of the new French ambassador's arrival on the morning of 13 January. He took the opportunity to speak to the president about issues regarding auxiliary measures for the franc zone countries following the CFA franc devaluation.

Foreign Minister Simon Bedaya-Ngaro, presidential legal advisor (Jean-Jacques Delafousse), financial and economic advisor (Eric Dang Dimandi), and (Marcel Loubegue), secretary general to the presidency, were present at the meeting. Mr. Morel, head of the French cooperation mission, and Mr. Moudiard, director of the French Development Fund, represented France at the meeting. At the end of the meeting, the French charge d'affaires spoke to Jean Brassidi on the reason for his meeting with the head of state:

[Begin recording] [(Colaux)] Following the meeting of heads of state in Dakar and the devaluation of the CFA franc, France has put forward auxiliary measures based

on two considerations: France is proposing the annulment of debts incurred as a result of cooperation as well as those which need to be paid up until the year 2020. That is the first point. The second point, which stems from the first, is our solidarity with African countries, since we remain part of the franc zone and we hope to continue cooperation and assist each of the African countries (?to cushion) the disastrous effects that have been felt by the population, which does not seem to be the case of [words indistinct] Central African Republic. A third point which is extremely important and which we hold dear is the creation of a special development fund with funds to the tune of \$300 billion put in place by France for the 14 countries within the zone, but it is a fund which will manage funds contributed by financial backers. As of this evening, we will set to work to create here in Bangui, as well as in each capital of the franc zone, a special development fund to initiate development structures which will be [word indistinct] on the recommendation of suburbs or local authorities or non-governmental organizations, and which (?will develop) not only the capital but also the provinces.

[Brassidi] These measures will be phased out. Does that mean they will take the form of short-, medium-, and long-term measures?

[(Colraux)] The measures concerning debt are immediate ones. Regarding the setting up of the special development fund, we will first have to arrange a meeting of donors, among whom France is a major contributor. This could be done within a few weeks; that is, a few weeks to sensitize the financial backers as well as those who are in need of aid, for instance, the local authorities, since this kind of project will not exceed 200 billion CFA francs. If there are problems of water somewhere or problem in developing food crops in an area, or setting up a school [words indistinct] or the provision of blackboards or furniture to schools under the project—all of which do not require long periods of feasibility study—the (?measures) could be implemented with very short notice. [end recording]

Congo

Government Introduces Price Freeze, Postpones Wage Cut

AB1501221494 Paris AFP in English 1019 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] Brazzaville, Jan 15 (AFP)—The Congolese Government has introduced a price freeze, postponed a planned wage cut and lifted import taxes on staple foods in a bid to counter fallout from the recent 50 percent devaluation of the CFA franc.

The government decided late Friday at an emergency cabinet meeting devoted to the devaluation issue to postpone until further notice the proposed 20-to-35 percent reduction in salaries of state officials, spokesman Gabriel Matsiona told state radio.

The government also decided to suspend customs taxes on salted and fresh sea fish, poultry and vegetable oil, the spokesman added.

Matsiona also announced the creation of a "guarantee" fund to ensure importers of staple goods are able to buy fresh stocks, adding that rents and prices of petrol, bread, sugar, and other essentials were frozen until further notice.

The measures aim to counter inflation in the wake of Tuesday's [11 January] devaluation of the CFA franc, the main currency in francophone central and West Africa which has been pegged to the French franc.

Clashes Continue in Brazzaville; Peace Talks Delayed

AB1501142394 Paris AFP in English 1401 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Brazzaville, Jan 15 (AFP)—Sporadic clashes between armed opposition forces and government soldiers continued in Brazzaville Saturday as the two sides failed to meet for talks aimed at ending three days of violence.

Witnesses reported isolated clashes early Saturday in the south of the capital between militiamen loyal to opposition leader Bernard Kolelas and troops of President Pascal Lissouba.

A commission under Defence Minister Raymond Damase Ngollo formed to mediate a solution to the crisis was in contact with both camps, officials said. But the officials added that the commission had failed to set up direct negotiations, although both sides said they were not in favour of a "military solution" to the standoff.

The negotiations are being flagged as a forum for opposition and pro-Lissouba forces to agree on the make-up of a government of national union to end a seven-month crisis sparked by disputed general elections last year.

The clashes have killed an estimated 110 people in Brazzaville since the beginning of December. [passage omitted covered in referent item]

Opposition forces say they favour the national unity government, provided the results of a judicial inquiry into 58 calls for the annulment of voting in certain constituencies from the June 1 first round of polling onwards are published. The elections eventually returned a majority of 65 pro-Lissouba candidates, reversing the previous make-up of the 125-seat legislature.

Opposition forces believe the balance of power could shift again after the inquiry publishes its findings. They are scheduled to be released in February.

Clashes after the first round which claimed some 30 lives forced the suspension of polling. Voting resumed in October after both sides reached agreement in August to set up the inquiry.

But violence flared again in November, when around 50 died during fresh bloodshed in the capital.

The fighting has had a disastrous effect on Congo's already weakened economy, with opposition barricades forcing the closure of the rail link between Brazzaville and the port of Pointe-Noire, the country's main trading centre.

'Sporadic Shelling' Heard in Bacongo

AB1601080994 Paris AFP in English 0335 GMT
16 Jan 94

[Text] Brazzaville, Jan 16 (AFP)—Sporadic shelling was heard overnight Saturday in the Bacongo and Makele-Kele districts in the south of the Congolese capital Brazzaville, marking renewed clashes between supporters and opponents of President Pascal Lissouba, witnesses said.

Bacongo, an opposition stronghold, has been the scene of repeated fighting since November, when Lissouba ordered a crackdown on "brigands" among the opposition.

Lissouba's opponents were excluded from parliamentary bodies created last June, and fresh elections in October failed to resolve the situation.

Government troops in armoured vehicles used heavy weaponry against opposition supporters in the same districts on Thursday and Friday when they came under machine gun fire, witnesses said.

The shelling had died down Sunday morning, but there were still bursts of fire from machine pistols in the Makele-Kele district.

Officer Kidnapped; 4 Dead in Clashes

AB1601193394 Paris AFP in English 1910 GMT
16 Jan 94

[Text] Brazzaville, Jan 16 (AFP)—Four people were killed in clashes between government forces, pro-government and opposition militias in the capital of Congo from Friday to Sunday, a hospital official said. Another man was killed by unknown gunmen in the central Ouenze district of Brazzaville, the official added.

The four dead were killed in separate clashes between government forces and opposition militia on the one hand and pro-government and opposition militia on the other.

This brought the death toll since the resumption of fighting in the capital in mid-December to 115.

After several days of relative calm, clashes resumed on Thursday [13 January] and Friday, with government

forces using heavy weapons to respond to machine gun fire from opposition militias. More heavy weapons fire was heard late Saturday evening in Makele-Kele district, where government troops had deployed in armoured vehicles to try to separate the clashing rival militias, a military source said.

The shelling had died down Sunday morning, but there were still bursts of fire from machine pistols in the district.

In the other areas of the capital, government forces continued to check vehicles for arms.

Meanwhile a presidential statement said an officer guarding President Pascal Lissouba was kidnapped on Saturday by "the private militia" of opposition leader Bernard Kolelas but it gave no details of the abduction. The statement called for national mediator, Defence Minister Raymond Damase N'gollo, to do everything possible to gain the release of Lieutenant Jonathon Mabiela.

Kidnapped Officer Executed

AB1601213494 Libreville Africa No. 1 in French 1830
GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Lieutenant Jonathan Mabiela, an officer of the Congolese presidential security, was kidnapped and executed by opposition militiamen. He was a victim of the rising tension in Brazzaville. Gilbert David Moutakela has the details:

[Begin recording] The situation deteriorated suddenly this afternoon in Brazzaville after the kidnapping of a presidential security officer. Lt. Jonathan Mabiela was kidnapped and executed by private opposition militiamen. Elements of the presidential guard, feeling that their pride was hurt, decided to avenge their colleague. Before they could attack, the directorate of the presidential security sent an ultimatum to the prime minister, mediators of the republic, and Bernard Kolelas. In a message announced on national radio, the presidential security directorate demanded the liberation of Lt. Mabiela. The ultimatum from the presidential security expired this evening at 1800, but the body of the dead lieutenant is nowhere to be found. All elements of the presidential security on leave were called urgently back to their units, and tough measures are expected.

It must be noted that the places where the action will be focused essentially are in the southern part of Brazzaville—Bacongo and Makele-Kele, where violence has continued despite many calls for calm by political leaders and the Congolese Armed Forces.

It must be recalled that since the beginning of the Congolese crisis in July 1993, several officers of the Congolese Armed Forces, including a major and a colonel, have been kidnapped. Those who were not killed were released after being subjected to untold hardships. [end recording]

[Brazzaville Radio Nationale Congolaise Network in French at 1830 on 16 January opens its regular newscast with the following communique issued and read and signed by the director of the presidential security service: "Elements of the presidential security have read an ultimatum in which they demanded the body of their colleague from Bernard Kolelas and his group. As director of presidential security, I declare that these soldiers have no business losing their calm, because the president of the Republic held talks this morning with the national mediators, who are the only people authorized to settle any disputes and conflicts between individuals and groups of individuals in the country. I would like to reassure the people of Brazzaville that suitable organs to ensure peace and national harmony have begun work since this morning on the orders of both the president of the Republic and the prime minister. I would therefore like to stress that the ultimatum read earlier is null and void because no authority conceived nor approved it previously."]

Gabon

Traders Raise Prices Despite Government Freeze

AB1601085494 Libreville RTG Chaine Nationale Radio Network in French 0800 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Gabonese are living through the trauma of the CFA franc devaluation and price hikes. Inhabitants of Libreville are experiencing a difficult situation brought about by Lebanese traders in the city. Details with Charles Ndengue:

[Ndengue] Most of the shops are closed in Libreville, traders fearing lootings following the devaluation of the CFA francs. When the shops do open their doors for a few hours one notices that prices have increased. [passage omitted] Lebanese traders are adopting negative attitudes by closing their shops, hoarding their merchandise, and indiscriminately raising the prices of their goods while the government had asked all Gabonese to abide by the necessary measures imposed by this devaluation. [passage omitted]

Three Opposition Leaders Prevented From Leaving

AB1501101094 Libreville RTG Chaine Nationale Radio Network in French 0800 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] Three opposition leaders were forbidden from leaving Libreville when they tried to take a flight to Paris. Among them were two candidates who lost in the December presidential election, Messrs Pierre-Claver Moussavou and Alexandre Sambat. According to the Gabonese opposition, the delegation intended to tour France and the United States of America. Another delegation of Gabonese opponents were refused authorization by the police to leave the country when they were about to board a plane for Paris on 11 January.

Zaire

Mobutu Announces Dissolution of HCR, Government 14 Jan

AB1401205694 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1906 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Address by President Mobutu Sese Seko in Kinshasa on 14 January—live or recorded]

[Text] Very dear compatriots, I am addressing you for the second time in 10 days because in my 4 January message to the nation I called on the political circles, especially the negotiators, to go back to the dialogue table to sign the agreements sanctioning their consultations that were taking place in the Palais du Peuple.

Fortunately, the signing of the draft agreement and of the particular arrangements related to the equitable and balanced sharing of power during the transitional period is today a reality. I therefore called on [break in reception] the abolition of the double institution system and the creation of a single parliament called the High Council of the Republic [HCR] or transitional parliament, and the formation of a single government, fourth, the adoption of a referendum and electoral timetable. I am convinced that the proper implementation of these provisions will definitively put an end to the political confusion that has prevailed so far in the country.

The immediate consequences of the coming into force of these Palais du Peuple agreements are the dissolution of the National Assembly that resulted from the 1987 legislative elections and of the High Council of the Republic that resulted from the sovereign national conference, and the resignation of the present transitional government which, as of today, is charged with taking care of current affairs until the formation of a new government.

Very dear compatriots, as promised in my recent New Year's message, I will very soon sign the texts sanctioning the Palais du Peuple agreements. Right now, as far as I am concerned, I will summon the HCR, that is the transitional parliament, to an extraordinary session on 17 January. The agenda for this session, which will not extend past 15 days, might include the following points: First, the internal organization of the parliament, which implies the verification and validation of the terms of office of its members, the working out and adoption of its rules of procedure, the election of its standing executive committee, and the setting up of its working commissions; second, the drawing up and adoption of the constitutional text of the transition; and third, the election of the prime minister, head of the transitional government.

Dear countrymen, regarding the transitional government, I would like to recall that in conformity with the spirit of the agreements signed at the Palais du Peuple and my renewed promise on 4 January, the prime minister and head of the government is expected to be

appointed from the opposition. His appointment must be decided by consensus at a consultative meeting between the political and social forces represented within the High Council of the Republic, the transitional parliament.

As everyone knows, during the four months of consultations at the Palais du Peuple, no consensus was reached on the nomination of the prime minister of the transitional government. On 9 January, that is five days after my 4 January message to the nation, the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition [USOR] allies and the political forces of the conclave reached a consensus on a prime ministerial candidate in the person of Professor Mulumba Lukoyi. Furthermore, in a letter addressed to me on 12 January, the USOR introduced the candidature of Mr. Tshisekedi Wa Mulumba.

In accordance with the democratic logic underlying the accords of the Palais du Peuple and in virtue of the attributions of the High Council of the Republic, the transitional parliament, it is up to this institution to deliberate the issue. I will therefore wait for the High Council of the Republic, the transitional parliament, to propose to me an ordinance to be issued on the name of the new prime minister and head of government.

Nevertheless, on account of the acute crisis facing the country, along with the people, I expect that this time the transitional parliament will not be bogged down in futile and ill-timed quarrels.

My dear countrymen, to end this message, I urge all Zairian citizens—men, women, and children—each in his sector, to show a high sense of discipline, patriotism, and civic duty so that in 1994, with the help of God and our ancestors, we can conclude our democratic process. Thus we can allow Zaire to at last play the role that belongs to it in the concert of nations of Africa and the world.

God bless Zaire and its people. Thank you.

Vice President, Others Respond

*AB1401231294 Paris AFP in English 2232 GMT
14 Jan 94*

[Text] Kinshasa, Jan 14 (AFP)—President Mobutu Sese Seko on Friday dissolved Zaire's government and opposition-led transitional legislature on the strength of an agreement between his own camp and the opposition to end a stalemate that had produced two prime ministers and two parliaments. Mobutu dissolved the mainstream National Assembly as well and announced the formation of a new transitional High Council of the Republic cum National Assembly. He said it would hold its first session on January 17 and would select a premier from two candidates presented by Mobutu loyalists and the opposition led by Prime Minister Etienne Tshisekedi.

The president, in power since 1965, said he hoped the new High Council "would not get bogged down in the

byzantine quarrels" that have left Zaire with two rival governments, parliaments and prime ministers.

Joseph Ileo, the vice president of the now-dissolved HCR, immediately attacked the move, calling it a "constitutional coup d'etat" by the Zairean president.

The Political Forces of the Conclave (FPC) gathered around Mobutu and the Holy Alliance of Radical Opposition (USOR), which backs the president's arch-rival Tshisekedi, had earlier in the day reached agreement on reshaping the interim legislature, a spokesman for the Holy Alliance, Gerard Kamanda, said. "The president does not have the powers to dissolve the High Council even if an agreement has been signed," Ileo told AFP, adding that the documents should have been submitted to the council for approval.

The aim of the latest round of negotiations—which had been going on for more than 10 days—had been to draw up an agreement on Zaire's transition to genuine parliamentary democracy and to form a new government, ending the co-existence of rival teams.

Tshisekedi, whom the president was compelled to appoint as prime minister last year but tried to sack in February as part of a power struggle, had refused to step down. Tshisekedi claimed to have the support of the national conference on democracy which set up the original HCR and whose sovereignty Mobutu always refused to recognise. Mobutu subsequently appointed another prime minister, Faustin Birindwa.

Violent clashes in October 1991 led to increasing pressure at home and from major aid donors for Mobutu to reform his autocratic system of government.

Tshisekedi was reelected as de facto head of government in August 1992 by the democracy conference.

Prime Ministerial Candidates Noted

*AB1501232094 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800
GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Text] Comments have been running high at political parties' headquarters and among the general public after President Mobutu Sese Seko's address to the nation yesterday. Apart from the issues he discussed, the president announced the resignation of the present government headed by Faustin Birindwa and mentioned the names of Professor Mulumba Lukoyi and Etienne Tshisekedi as candidates for the post of prime minister as proposed by their respective political groups.

However, the list is not limited, stated Kipolongo Mukambilwa yesterday evening. In fact, a third candidate, (Kabangu Musa), has just been announced by his party, the National Union for Progress [Union Nationale pour le Progres], Unapro. It claims to be a party from the new political class supporting neither of the two main rival political groups—presidential camp or the Sacred Union of the opposition. Unapro nominated its candidate at the end of its extraordinary session held today to examine all

the consequences of the address by President Mobutu yesterday. The meeting was chaired by Jose Konga Bakombo, national chairman of the party.

Opposition Official Comments

LD1501194594 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1700 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] There is a new political deal in Zaire: The head of the Zairean state, President Mobutu, announced yesterday the resignation of the government of Faustin Birindwa, who will be responsible for current matters until the appointment of a new prime minister. The latter will have to be appointed within the next two weeks by the High Council of the Republic, which will also include President Mobutu's political allies.

Two candidates will stand, Etienne Tshisekedi and Mulumba Lukoji. Lukoji has already held this post; he inaugurated the national conference two years ago. He is the candidate of the parties close to the Presidency, whereas Etienne Tshisekedi remains the candidate of the opposition. On the opposition's side, the president's speech has provoked anger and outrage. For the Christian Democrat PDCS [Democratic and Social Christian Party], this is merely a constitutional coup. There has been another reaction, that of the UDPS [Union for Democracy and Social Progress], Etienne Tshisekedi's party, which is the hard core of the Radical Sacred Union of the opposition. Herve de Guelinck spoke to Justine Kasavubu:

[Begin recording] [Kasavubu] It is an extra obstacle. You may remember that Mobutu said a few days ago that he agreed to a prime minister from the opposition. That has now been shown to be a lie. He has given Mulumba Lokoji a leg-up, which means that after Mulumba Lokoji, we will still have Mungul Diaka [presidium chairman of Alliance of Independent Forces for Integral Change] and Nguza Karl-I-Bond. This is the Mobutist carousel.

[Guelinck] Yet it will be up to the transitional parliament to appoint the candidate, won't it?

[Kasavubu] But the transitional parliament never said that Mr. Tshisekedi was out of bounds, so I think that the counsellors of the Republic will be keen to set Mr. Tshisekedi back to work [as heard] and to tell Mobutu once and for all that the comedy is over.

Troops Prevent HCR Meeting 16 Jan

LD1601164394 Brussels La Une Radio Network in French 1600 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The situation in Kinshasa in Zaire is tense. Troops are preventing the High Council of the Republic [HCR] from meeting. The HCR was to have started expanding itself, thereby turning itself into the transitional parliament. This goes against the views of President Mobutu, who announced on Friday evening that he

was dissolving his government and fusing together the HCR and the National Assembly.

Etienne Tshisekedi has come out against what he is calling a takeover by force. Etienne Tshisekedi is one of the main opponents of President Mobutu, and he is still prime minister of one of the two governments disputing the running of Zaire. These decisions are anti-constitutional, he says, and go against all the agreements that have been made. He has called on the international community not to allow itself to be misled.

Tshisekedi Comments on Events

LD1601213194 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The guest of Afrique Soir is Etienne Tshisekedi, the Zairean opposition leader who is also the prime minister appointed by the national conference. As you know, Marshal Mobutu announced the dissolution of his own government, that of Faustin Birindwa, and summoned the members of the former National Assembly and of the High Council of the Republic on Wednesday [19 January], so that they can elect a new prime minister. The opposition has already announced that it regards this decision as a coup. Tshisekedi broke his silence today. He spoke to Monique Mas:

[Begin recording] [Tshisekedi] The real reason behind the deadlock is that I was elected prime minister by the sovereign National Conference, whereas Mr. Mobutu does not know [as heard] this conference; he is going back to his own Constitution, and this is dictatorship. This is why cohabitation is impossible, because we do not have the same source of power. This is why there were negotiations, so that we could define a common framework of power. Cohabitation is necessary because the law makes provisions for it. But since this law does not exist as far as Mr. Mobutu is concerned, this is why we cannot cohabit.

[Mas] During this long-lasting crisis, don't you have the feeling that the Zairean people may get tired of everyone, including the opposition and yourself?

[Tshisekedi] Just the opposite. If you were here, you would know that the people are more determined. It is [political] circles—certain political circles, especially those who supported Mr. Mobutu's dictatorship not too long ago—who are saying such things, that people may get tired. People cannot get tired in their struggle for liberation. People are dealing with a dictator who enslaved them for years. They cannot get tired of struggling to break free from slavery. We have not chosen the [word indistinct] of arms, but we have chosen nonviolence, and this is also the price that has to be paid.

[Mas] Very recently, the French Minister of Cooperation Mr. Roussin was saying that a third way between you, Mr. Tshisekedi, and the government of the parties close to the president, would be a solution for Zaire. What do you think of that?

[Tshisekedi] Yes, but we have got used to the position of the French Government lately. So, we attribute to the French Government putting pressure on the Togolese prime minister to put him on the side of the dictator, because for them, they think that when you have a dictator, you should be loyal to him rather than put yourself on the side of the people. The Zairean people, (and) we who are following all this maneuvering by the French Government, you can count on us: Mr. Roussin can speak, he has the right to speak like anyone else, but in this country we will ignore both Mr. Roussin and everything he says.

[Mas] How do you imagine the immediate future of Zaire? How do you expect to act in the immediate future?

[Tshisekedi] Next Wednesday, 19 January, is the day Mr. Mobutu intends to establish his new puppet government. We have just called on all our people, both in Kinshasa and up country, to hold a ghost town day that day, to show him our opposition and our discontent, and we will also use a huge number of other strategies—mass demonstrations, civil disobedience, and so on—so that Mr. Mobutu will get involved, and we know that he will do so. [end recording]

More on 'Ghost Town' Call

AB1701075094 Paris AFP in English 0437 GMT
17 Jan 94

[Text] Kinshasa, Jan 17 (AFP)—Zairian opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi has called for a strike to turn Kinshasa into a "ghost town" on Wednesday [19 January] to protest President Mobutu Sese Seko's dissolution last week of the government and the opposition-led transitional legislature.

Tshisekedi told a news conference Mobutu, who also dissolved the National Assembly, had carried out a "constitutional coup d'etat".

On Friday Mobutu said an accord signed by his own supporters and the radical opposition meant that the government of Faustin Birindwa set up nine months ago should be dissolved "with immediate effect" along with the transitional High Council of the Republic (HCR) and the rival National Assembly.

A long-running power struggle between Mobutu and the opposition had left the country with two governments, including one led by Tshisekedi, and two parliaments.

Tshisekedi, at a press conference on Sunday, condemned the dissolution of the HCR and claimed there had been "abuse" in interpreting the agreement signed by the opposition Holy Alliance, which was concerned mainly with reforming the HCR and drawing up an election timetable.

Presidential supporters and the opposition had been engaged in talks since last September to resolve the political crisis. Mobutu ordered the HCR and the

National Assembly to unite to form a new transitional assembly and to choose a new prime minister.

The first session of the enlarged body, originally set for Monday, has been put back to Wednesday.

Party Official Disagrees With Action

AB1601220994 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800
GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Following the head of state's message of 14 January, several political parties have been analyzing it. The Christian Democrats Party's [PDC] interim chairman, Boboliko, chaired a meeting over the weekend. After the meeting Vice Chairman (Mbesi Mbenatubi) spoke to reporters. He told reporters that no son of Zaire can any longer take it upon himself alone to decide for the country. According to Mr. Mbenatubi, one cannot stand on the signing of a draft protocol agreement to dissolve the High Council of the Republic, which emanated from the sovereign national conference.

Monsengwo Warns Against Disruptive Acts

AB1701220894 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network
in French 1900 GMT 17 Jan 94

[News conference given by Monsignor Laurent Monsengwo, chairman of the High Council of the Republic, at the Inter-Diocesan Center in Kinshasa on 17 January; recorded]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, the week of 9-16 January will remain a historic week for our country Zaire. In fact, during that week, all the necessary conditions for a happy ending of the political consultations at the Palais du Peuple were practically met. Actually, as far as we know, all the various components of the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition [USOR] and the Political Forces of the Conclave [FPC], have either signed or have made up their mind to sign the protocol accord issued at the end of that political consultation. We take note of this fact and also note with joy the desire clearly expressed by the entire political class to see a successful end to the negotiations of the Palais du Peuple and implement them in accordance with laid down procedures and in conformity with the accord concluded.

We congratulate all the parties engaged in the negotiations for the results obtained. We urgently ask them not to compromise the results of such a delicate and tedious work. That is why we deplore the fact that the calm atmosphere of dialogue and tolerance that prevailed throughout the political negotiations is now giving place to upset and a partisan spirit of intolerance and mistrust. It would be criminal to turn into failure all the 10 months of efforts deployed to find a solution to this political crisis which has been the bane of our people. We therefore call on all the political parties and their leaders to refrain from any declarations, attitudes, and acts likely to inflame passions, poison the situation, and drive away forever a solution which is already so close.

We invite all political leaders to work toward a harmonious end as well as the implementation of the accords of the Palais du Peuple.

Minister Denies Dissolution

AB1701231094 Kinshasa Tele-Zaire Television Network in French 1900 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Excerpt of a news conference by Communications Minister Ngongo Luwowa with unidentified local reporters at the National Television House in Kinshasa on 17 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified reporter] It is not to show off that we have come to see you, but we have come to see you so you may answer some questions that have been on the minds of the people. These questions center around the recent speech of the president of the Republic. We have come to you for clarification, especially in your capacity as participant in the political consultations. We would like to have more of such meetings for the better understanding of the developments in the country. My first question, Mr. Minister, is that the public has been wondering whether President Mobutu Sese Seko actually dissolved the High Council of the Republic [HCR] and the parliament? What do you say to that?

[Luwowa] You know, things are very clear but it is only those who do not want to see democracy advance and to see an end to the transition period that are complicating matters. In his address to the nation the head of state did not dissolve the High Council of the Republic or the parliament. The head of state simply took note of the decision made by the two major political families of Zaire which were engaged in negotiations at the Palais du Peuple. These two political groups, at the end of their negotiations, decided on a certain number of things among which is the creation of an HCR- Transitional Parliament. That is to say, a single parliament which will comprise the present National Assembly, the HCR, and participants in the political negotiations. [passage omitted]

The head of state, who is the guarantor of the nation, did not refer to any constitutional provisions contested by any one of the groups. He referred exactly to what was agreed upon in the protocol agreement and said the HCR as it is now composed ceases to exist, the National Assembly as it is presently composed also ceases to exist, and of course, participants in the negotiations, having arrived at the end of their negotiations, cease to exist as an entity. [passage omitted]

Daily Examines Dissolution Action

BR1801154094 Brussels L'ECHO in French 18 Jan 94 p 1

[Article signed D.Gr.: "New Departure for the Zairian Transition?"]

[Text] As expected, President Mobutu addressed the nation on Friday evening. Although he stopped short of unilaterally naming a prime minister, he nevertheless announced measures which depart from the constitutional framework as agreed by the Sovereign National Conference (CNS) which, we should remember, brought together all elements of Zairian political life and civil society.

Contrary to the Zairian leader's claims, not all parties have signed the protocol of agreement between the opposition and presidential party. At the very most, the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition indicated last Wednesday that it would agree to sign it and some representatives have put their signatures to the text. Moreover, Mobutu would have no right to dissolve the High Council of the Republic (HCR), which resulted from the national conference, and to merge it with "his" national assembly. The opposition sees this as a further "constitutional coup d'etat" by the president. Clever as always, Mobutu would thus be undoing the work of the CNS while forgetting that the validity of his own position stems from it. His mandate in fact expired in December 1991 and was extended by the conference members at the insistence of the Western partners (the Americans in particular) in order to avoid a transition marked by conflict. As is customary, Mobutu is dipping into the texts to retrieve that which suits his own ends.

Lukoji Against Tshisekedi?

In his Friday evening address, Mobutu announced that the remodelled interim HCR-Parliament was to meet yesterday and should, over the next two weeks, deal with matters of its internal organization (validation of mandates, rules of procedure, election of officers, setting up of committees), drawing up and adopting the interim constitutional act, and the choice of a prime minister drawn from the opposition, whose appointment should be sanctioned by a presidential decree. He also indicated that the allies of the Sacred Union of the Radical Opposition and the presidential party had suggested Mulumba Lukoji as prime minister, while the Sacred Union continued to support Etienne Tshisekedi.

For their part, the opposition representatives do not want to hear any talk of the immediate dissolution of the HCR. They believe it should first examine the texts of the protocol of agreement. If it concludes that they do not violate the statute of the CNS, it must have them signed by all the parties (including Mobutu) at a formal ceremony in the presence of foreign witnesses.

Finally, the meeting scheduled for this Monday has been postponed until Wednesday. It seems that this is designed to provide time for tempers to cool off. On Sunday the present HCR was unable to sit. The military prevented it from doing so under the pretext that the president had terminated its legal existence. For his part, Etienne Tshisekedi has rejected the presidential decisions and pointed out that he is the only "legal" prime

minister because he was elected by the CNS. He also called upon the population to respect a total shutdown of activities on Wednesday.

Monsengwo to the Rescue

Whereas Mobutu has succeeded in reviving tensions, the HCR president has been seeking to ease them. In any event, Monseigneur Monsengwo seems ready to confront the radical opposition. In his opinion, all political factions have "either signed or reached a decision to sign the protocol of agreement." The prelate considers them to be historic agreements. He has thus called upon the parties not to compromise "the result of so much hard work."

Monseigneur Monsengwo wants the HCR to meet "right away" in order "to be able to take up the option which allows it to form a single body with the former national assembly." He has thus admitted in substance that this institution should give way to the interim HCR- Parliament, now remodelled following political agreements.

This declaration will certainly not please the most radical opposition members who believe the new HCR will be dominated by the presidential party and members of the moderate opposition with little inclination to support Tshisekedi.

Paris as the Third Way

All this should make it possible to arrive at the "third way" as suggested by the French cooperation minister. According to Michel Roussin, a "third way must be found between Etienne Tshisekedi and the government appointed by Mobutu." For the opposition, this amounts to nothing less than abandoning Tshisekedi and breaking the consensus binding Belgium, the United States and France.

It should be noted that neither Belgium nor the United States have reacted to Mobutu's statements. Both countries seem to be waiting to see how things develop and if the latest negotiations manage to ease the tension.

But the fact remains that the Belgian Government does not seem very worried by the prospect of the HCR disappearing so easily, despite the fact that it has always seen it as the sole representative body of the Zairian transition.

The alarming descriptions of what is happening in the field also seem to be meeting with little reaction.

Several witnesses report troop movements, sporadic looting and violence, none of which augurs well.

Many people are now hoping above all that Mobutu becomes genuinely involved in the interim process in order to avoid any further breaking of the consensus and further delays for the transition.

Kenya

President Moi Receives Chinese Foreign Minister*EA1701175394 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1000 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Excerpt] His Excellency President Daniel arap Moi today at State House, Nairobi, held talks with the visiting vice premier, Mr. Qian Qichen, who is also the minister for foreign affairs. Welcoming him, President Moi noted that the friendship between the two countries goes back to 1963 when Kenya became independent. He thanked the Chinese Government for undertaking important development projects in Kenya, citing the Kasarani sports complex as a monument of the cooperation between the two countries. Noting that China played an important role in the economic life of Kenyans, President Moi urged Chinese entrepreneurs to invest more in Kenya.

On recent economic and political reforms, President Moi said Kenya had undergone a very difficult time as the changes were not only new but incomprehensible to the people. He said he admired the Chinese policies because they were determined by and formulated to respond to the wishes of the people and obtaining local situations. His Excellency the president said although Kenyan communities were not yet cohesive, the government was working hard to unite the people. He said it was good to have a friend like China who understood Kenya's viewpoint in the light of the prevailing political and economic situation.

On the recent East Africa cooperation treaty President Moi noted that the region had over 70 million people which he said was a vast market for investors. He pointed out that market opportunities are made even more bright considering the preferential trade area. President Moi briefed the Chinese vice premier on the efforts to resolve conflicts in the region and especially in the Sudan whose peace initiative committee he chairs.

Mr. Qichen congratulated President Moi for the 1992 successful general elections and also for his victory in the presidential race. The vice premier said China admired President Moi's role in promoting peace and stability in the region. He also said the good relations existing between the two countries formed a good basis for stronger political and economic cooperation. Mr. Qichen said for the last 15 years China had undergone a tremendous economic transformation after opening up to the outside world.

Later, President Moi received the spiritual leader of Coptic Orthodox Church, Pope Shenouda III. Pope Shenouda, who last visited Kenya 15 years ago, said he had been impressed by the country's development, especially through the spirit of harambee. [passage omitted]

Saitoti, Chinese Official Meet*EA1701174494 Nairobi KNA in English 1250 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Excerpts] Nairobi, 17 Jan (KNA)—The vice president and minister for planning and national development Professor George Saitoti today hailed the cordial relations existing between Kenya and China. The vice president told the visiting Chinese minister, Mr. Qian Qichen, that Kenya and China had maintained very cordial relationships in the last 30 years of Kenya's independence.

Mr. Qian Qichen, who is also the minister for foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China, had made a courtesy call on the vice president in his office at the Treasury. The vice president stated that although China was a developing nation, the country had been able to assist Kenya and the gesture underscored that China was a true friend of Kenya. [passage omitted]

Prof. Saitoti said the government had introduced fundamental economic reforms, making the economy more market oriented. He called on Chinese companies to avail themselves of the attractive economic package and invest in the country.

Mr. Qian Qichen told the vice president that China was satisfied with the cordial relationships and mutual cooperation between China and Kenya. He said China considered Kenya as an important nation in the eastern African region and hailed the vital role it was playing in the economic integration and peace initiatives in the region. [passage omitted]

Chinese Official Comments*EA1801122094 Nairobi KNA in English 1015 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Nairobi, 18 Jan (KNA)—The visiting Chinese vice-premier and minister for foreign affairs Mr Qian Qichen said yesterday that the major problem facing African countries in revamping its stalled economies was due to the new political changes which were based on tribal lines. [sentence as received] He said the introduction of multiparty politics in Africa had led African states to turmoil and civil strife because the parties were based on tribal lines, forcing the government to be unable to play their due role in stabilizing their economies.

Addressing local and international journalists at a Nairobi hotel, Mr Qian Qichen said it was impossible for African countries to concentrate on economic problems facing them under the new political and economic situations set by [the] IMF and World Bank which have plunged many African countries into turmoil and civil wars.

The premier, who is on a tour to Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea to promote relations and acquaint himself with the situation the region,

said Africa had not been marginalized by the international community and that its future was bright.

Earlier, the premier signed an agreement with his Kenyan counterpart Mr Kalonzo Musyoka in which the Chinese Government would grant to the Kenya Government one batch of general commodities worth 10 million Kenyan shillings. Mr Musyoka said the commodities, which are of assorted wares, would be auctioned and its proceeds placed at the public accounts kitty. He thanked the Chinese Government for its support in various development projects, and challenged them to invest in Kenya, as the market is open for competition following the liberalization of economy and the opening up [of] trade links in east and central Africa.

Official Departs, To Continue Tour

EA1801172094 Nairobi KNA in English 1430 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Editorial report] Chinese vice premier Qian Qichen left Kenya this afternoon to continue his tour of East African countries.

Somalia

Rival Clans Resume Negotiations 16 Jan

AB1501121994 Paris AFP in English 1140 GMT 15 Jan 94

[By David Chazan]

[Excerpts] Mogadishu, Jan 15 (AFP)—Clansmen of Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid and those of his main rival, self-styled interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed, took a break from peace talks Saturday but were to resume negotiations Sunday.

About 175 representatives of General Aidid's Habr Gedir clan and the Abgal of Ali Mahdi are taking part in the talks. They have been convened and chaired by a respected Islamic leader, the Imam of Hirab. But the talks are being funded by the United Nations.

The world body has opted for a lower-profile, "catalytic" role in brokering the restoration of civilian authority in the increasingly lawless Somali capital since talks among the main warlords collapsed without agreement in Addis Ababa last month, senior UN officials said.

"We welcome the talks. They are being held among clan elders and we will not interfere," said a senior official of Aidid's Somali National Alliance (SNA), Issa Mohamed Siad. "They are non-political," said Issa, who denied reports that a senior SNA official, Abdi Qaydid, was attending.

Independent Somali observers said no talks could achieve a lasting settlement without the participation of the warlords themselves. UN officials, however,

expressed optimism about the inter-clan talks in Mogadishu. "Pressure is building from the rank- and-file to stop fighting," said one official. "The foot soldiers are tired." [passage omitted]

Meanwhile Mogadishu residents complained of a mounting wave of banditry that spares no one, not even Aidid's inner circle. The brother of SNA secretary-general Abdulkarim Ahmed Ali was shot dead by bandits who stole his car on Thursday, SNA officials said.

The sandy, potholed roads leading out of Mogadishu, choked with donkey carts and overloaded, antiquated trucks, are again infested with armed bandits to an extent not seen since before the multinational military intervention began 13 months ago, UN officials and Somali residents said.

"We've reduced our presence on the streets and people are paying the price in terms of banditry, but it's time for Somalis to understand that the international community only has limited patience and limited resources for Somalia," one senior UN official said.

On Thursday about two dozen Somalis with gunshot, shrapnel and knife wounds streamed into UN hospitals in Mogadishu, but the cause of the violence in which they were hurt remained mysterious.

Food prices have risen ahead of the Moslem fast Ramadan, and the value of the Somali shilling has fallen 10 percent against the dollar, making foreign products more expensive.

"As the Western forces pull out, merchants have stopped bringing in commodities," said a Somali businessman, Mohamed Sheikh, who imports domestic goods from Kenya on dhows, the traditional Arab boats that ply the Red Sea and Indian Ocean. "Everyone fears insecurity," said Mohamed, 50.

Aidid remained in Nairobi on Saturday, where he has met other factional leaders and US envoy Richard Bogosian, a US official said. The outcome of his contacts with representatives of the Group of 12 factions led by Ali Mahdi that oppose him seemed uncertain.

Meanwhile five US congressmen were expected here later Saturday for a brief fact-finding tour. Leading the delegation is Representative John Murtha, chairman of the House Defence Appropriations Committee, a Democrat from Pennsylvania. [passage omitted]

Peace Accord Signed 16 Jan

AB1601142494 Paris AFP in English 1406 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Mogadishu, Jan 16 (AFP)—Elders of Mogadishu's main warring clans signed a peace agreement Sunday after three days of talks aimed at stopping renewed factional fighting in Mogadishu after US forces withdrew.

The talks brought together 176 religious leaders and "Ugases," or traditional chiefs, from the clans of warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid and his enemy self-styled president Ali Mahdi Mohamed.

Several other smaller clans were also represented.

But the warlords themselves did not attend the meeting chaired by a prominent Islamic leader, the Imam of Hirab, Mohamoud Omar, revered both by General Aidid's Habr Gedir subclan and Ali Mahdi's Abgal.

"This is the beginning of a peaceful settlement in Somalia and Allah will support us," Imam Mohamoud told reporters after the agreement calling for peace between the clans and the return of property looted in the civil war was signed at the Kah hotel in Ali Mahdi's north Mogadishu enclave.

"I believe this meeting was fruitful because the people are fed up with war. Ali Mahdi and Aidid are clansmen and so they must follow all the agreements reached by their clans," said the Imam, wearing a red-and-gold embroidered tunic and white turban with black sunglasses.

Previous peace accords between the warlords, however, have come to nothing, and UN-brokered talks in Addis Ababa last month broke up without agreement.

But Italian ambassador Mario Scialoja, who visited the Imam during the talks Sunday, expressed optimism that pressure was building on the warlords to make peace.

"I am confident that this agreement between the Habr Gedir and the Abgal will lead to reconciliation between the two clans," he said before driving away with an Italian military escort.

"This could lead to a political agreement," Scialoja said. "In another few weeks we might reach a breakthrough."

Pro-Aidid Radio Reports on Accord

EA1601203494 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Excerpts] This afternoon at a Mogadishu hotel Iman Mohamoud Iman Omar officially closed a Hirab [Hawiye] communities reconciliation conference. The conference, which had been going on for four days, discussed the destruction inherited from the civil wars and the attainment of peace and total unity. The conference was attended by 176 people consisting of chiefs, distinguished people, peace-seekers, religious leaders, politicians, intellectuals, officers, and youths drawn from these communities.

Iman Mohamoud Iman Omar's speech was given due consideration. An evaluation of living conditions, peace, and other matters affecting the communities was also made.

The communities decided on the following resolutions: Peaceful coexistence should be practiced and any conflict should be resolved through joint dialogue; destruction both to life and property during the civil wars should be forgotten; expropriated properties, be they movable or immovable, should be returned to their rightful owners in line with Islamic law; roads connecting regions should be opened up for free movement; and concerted efforts should be made to combat bandits in line with Islamic law.

The conference appealed in fraternity and peace to other Somali communities to observe peaceful coexistence. The conference resolved that a 19-member committee conversant with laws and customs be formed. A committee composed of 15 members will be formed. Its task will be the implementation of the said resolutions. It will start functioning seven days after the signing of the agreement.

[Passage omitted] The speakers prayed to God to put the Somali people on the right path and asked that God inflict His curse on those opposed to peace. [passage omitted]

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Iman Mohamoud Iman Omar thanked the participants for the success of the conference.

After the conference concluded, the participants, led by the iman, met thousands of people who supported the reconciliation meeting and who were lining both sides of the road connecting hotels Kah and Towfiq.

The conference issued the following appeals:

1. In consideration of the common background and the general history of society, taking into account the unprecedented problems which have affected the brotherly society, and taking into account the indispensability of peaceful coexistence, the conference appealed to the great Somali society to implement the peace resolutions tirelessly.
2. The conference appealed to the Somali communities to live together in peace and brotherhood.
3. The conference appealed to the people to sort out any existing disagreements with a view to attaining peaceful coexistence and restoring unity and national dignity.
4. The conference appealed to the international community to give full assistance to the Somali people so that they will be able to overcome the problems of the civil wars and also be able to decide on their future.

The agreement was signed by 30 heads of the delegations to the conference.

Ali Mahdi, SNA Comment on Accord

AB1701161494 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 17 Jan 94

[By David Chazan]

[Text] Mogadishu, Jan 17 (AFP)—Warring Somali factions gave mixed reactions Monday to a peace treaty between Mogadishu's clans and stressed that it fell far short of settling their political differences.

Self-styled interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed welcomed the agreement signed Sunday by traditional leaders of his Abgal subclan and the Habr Gedir of his enemy, factional leader Mohamed Farah Aidid. "It is the first step in a broad peacemaking process," he told reporters. But he added: "We have a long way to go," and described the treaty as "fragile and delicate."

Issa Mohamed Siad, foreign affairs secretary of General Aidid's Somali National Alliance (SNA) faction, declined to talk to reporters. Appearing to reject the treaty, he sent word through an aide that the SNA would not comment on it "because it was not a political issue, only an agreement reached at a traditional clan gathering."

SNA supporter Abdi Abshir Kahiye said the clans could settle "small, local issues like punishing criminals," but their authority did not extend to "big political questions."

The treaty, hammered out by 176 clan elders and religious leaders in three days of talks, calls for the clans to live in peace, end the division of Mogadishu and return property looted during the civil war.

But the two warlords themselves neither signed the agreement nor attended the talks, reserved for clan elders and closed to politicians.

A vicious power struggle still divides the two men whose fighters gutted Mogadishu in four months of carnage before the first US Marines landed in December 1992 to help end a famine that cost 300,000 lives.

Aidid wants UN troops to quit Somalia. But Ali Mahdi says they must stay to prevent renewed civil war after US forces withdraw in March, a decision prompted by the killings of 25 Americans in clashes with Aidid's militiamen. Ali Mahdi said he would comply with the treaty and remove his militiamen from the Green Line dividing his north Mogadishu enclave from Aidid's south Mogadishu stronghold. "I hope Aidid will listen to the message of peace," Ali Mahdi said, adding that he was encouraged by the presence at the talks of influential clansmen of Aidid, currently in the Kenyan capital Nairobi.

But in a sign that peace may still be a distant prospect, Ali Mahdi denied SNA officials' claims that Aidid himself held peace talks in Nairobi with representatives of the Group of 12 factions led by Ali Mahdi. He stressed, however, that faction leaders were coming under mounting pressure from the rank-and-file to make peace.

"We are a clan society," Ali Mahdi said. "If the clan of a given political figure or leader opts for peace and chooses the road of reconciliation and pacification, I believe that leader has to comply with the wishes of his people."

Ali Mahdi said the UN's earlier attempts to mediate between the clan-based factions had failed.

But he stressed that Sunday's treaty was "completely different" because it marked "the first time that the community leaders have stepped in with all their weight" since factional fighting erupted after the 1991 overthrow of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

Ali Mahdi said buses had already started moving freely across the Green Line only a day after the treaty was signed.

Somali residents said they saw little change. Some even reported more gunmen than usual in Mogadishu's shell-blasted streets.

Ali Mahdi called for an all-clan "national community leaders' conference" to be held in Mogadishu after talks to win the agreement of other, smaller clans that did not sign the treaty.

UN Forces Release Aidid Aides in Mogadishu

*AB1801162394 Paris AFP in English 1607 GMT
18 Jan 94*

[Text] Mogadishu, Jan 18 (AFP)—UN forces on Tuesday [18 January] released eight aides of Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aidid, including his right hand man and chief financier Osman Hassan Ali 'Ato'.

Minutes after being freed, Osman addressed a rally of about 2,000 cheering supporters who welcomed him with garlands of purple bougainvillea flowers. "Without you we would never have succeeded," Osman, known as 'Ato,' or the slim man told the crowd.

He did not mention General Aidid's demand for UN peacekeepers to quit Somalia in what was essentially a non-political speech, but promised to address supporters again on Thursday.

Osman, 44, was arrested four months ago on suspicion of involvement in the killings of US and UN peacekeepers before the world body dropped its hunt for Aidid and suspended a warrant for his arrest in November. Osman was held for a time on an island off southern Somalia with two other senior Aidid aides, Mohamed Hassan Awale, the warlord's advisor on international affairs, and Omar Salad Elmi, Aidid's former representative in Ethiopia.

The latter were arrested during an October 3 firefight in which Aidid militiamen killed 18 Americans. The three were later moved to the central town of Baidoa. They were flown to Mogadishu and handed over to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross on Tuesday along with five other lower level Aidid aides who had been detained in the capital.

An international law expert who investigated the case against the eight detainees, Enoch Dumbuntshena of

Zimbabwe recommended their release after a four day visit to Somalia earlier this month, UN officials said.

An international commission is still investigating allegations that Aidid masterminded the killings of foreign soldiers.

More than 80 peacekeepers have died since the United Nations took over command of the multi-national military intervention force in Somalia from the United States in May, most in clashes with Aidid's militiamen.

"We're happy the detainees have been released and we hope that all those will work together for peace with a spirit of reconciliation," UN spokesman George Bennett

said. Asked whether the decision to release the detainees was political or judicial, Bennett said it was "humanitarian" gesture.

As the eight were being released they met the Imam of Hirab, Omar Mohamoud, a revered Islamic leader who brokered a peace treaty signed by the clans of Aidid and his enemy, self-styled interim president Ali Mahdi Mohamed on Sunday.

In a statement from Geneva confirming the releases of the eight, the ICRC recalled that it had in October last year played a role in bringing about the release of a US helicopter pilot and a Nigerian soldier held by Aidid supporters.

ICRC officials have visited 206 prisoners in UNOSOM hands during the past eight months, the statement said.

De Klerk, Mandela Meet 17 Jan; No Details Released

MB1701082094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0812 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Pretoria Jan 17 SAPA—State President F W de Klerk and African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela met at the Union Buildings in Pretoria early on Monday morning. ANC spokesman Carl Niehaus said "issues under discussion were not finalised" at the meeting and further meetings would follow. Mr Niehaus said both parties had agreed that no further details regarding the meeting would be released on Monday.

Mr de Klerk is scheduled to meet Zulu King Goodwill Zwelethini at 4pm on Monday.

Mr Mandela and Mr de Klerk met at the Union Buildings last Tuesday to discuss ways of dealing with violence. A joint statement issued after last week's meeting said the leaders would meet this week to devise a composite plan to deal with violence.

De Klerk Comments on Peace Plan

MB1701102994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1006 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Pretoria Jan 17 SAPA—The government has proposed boosting security force manpower in strife-torn townships as part of a composite peace plan to be announced later this week, State President F W de Klerk said on Monday. He told reporters after talks with African National Congress [ANC] leader Nelson Mandela at the Union Buildings in Pretoria that no final decisions had been reached. Solving the violence was an all-inclusive process which could not be accomplished on a "quick-fix" basis.

All parties which had a direct or indirect bearing on the violence, including Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party, had to be consulted, said Mr de Klerk. The government had a specific role to prevent violence. Its plan to maintain law and order was being discussed with Mr Mandela. Further discussions would also take place with the Transitional Executive Council, Mr Buthelezi and peace structures.

Referring to Mr Mandela's reported call for the withdrawal of the Internal Stability Division from East Rand townships, Mr de Klerk said: "Specific steps to ensure the strengthening of (security force) manpower, especially the levels of the South African Defence Force's role, are being looked at."

Socio-economic problems such as housing and education would also be addressed effectively to further stabilise the East Rand.

Mr de Klerk also held talks with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, informing him about the negotiation process, the run-up to the elections and the challenges facing a government of national unity. He expressed confidence that the complications arising from "significant parties" still being outside the process and threatening to boycott the elections would be overcome.

"We will continue to draw in the other role players and through negotiations and agreements search for a solution," he said. There was no turning back on the April 27 election date, Mr de Klerk added.

Mr Juppe said France stood ready to increase its financial assistance to South Africa "two-fold" and would step up bilateral aid for technology and cultural activities.

He invited South Africa to the Franco/African summit to be held soon and said France would play a substantial role in monitoring the election process.

Responding to a question, Mr de Klerk said he was "highly critical" of the ANC's economic plans which critics have slammed as being tantamount to nationalisation, and would relay this message during his election campaign. The plan showed the ANC had not made sufficient progress in terms of economic realities, he said.

He hoped the ANC's decision-making body would steer away from the calamities which would result if such policies were applied.

Peace Plan Not 'Quick-Fix'

MB1701134394 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 17 Jan 94 pp 1,2

[By Billy Paddock]

[Text] President F.W. de Klerk and ANC [African National Congress] president Nelson Mandela meet at the Union Buildings in Pretoria today to finalise details of "the most comprehensive peace initiative" government and the ANC have devised in the hope of stemming township violence. Both camps are keeping the meeting, the second in a week, under wraps. They refused to discuss details of the plan, which they said was too sensitive at this stage. Mandela and De Klerk have issued instructions to their negotiating teams to keep details confidential until the plan is finalised.

Two key sources confirmed the meeting but warned that the final version of the plan "is not a dramatic humdinger that is going to solve the violence in one quick-fix, brilliant manoeuvre". They refused to divulge details, saying: "Too much is resting on this. We have to ensure nothing gets in the way of the full agreement both parties are committed to setting up for the immediate period and on into the phase after elections."

The plan discussed by the two leaders last week was also discussed in Cabinet and at the ANC's national working committee and its national executive committee meetings last week.

The sources said the plan was a step-by-step initiative. It relied on building trust and co-operation between government, the ANC, the SAP [South African Police], the SADF [South African Defence Force], Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation, MK; ANC military wing], the self-defence units and the internal stability unit. Community co-operation would also have an important role.

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel has acknowledged that the internal stability unit needs to be reviewed. The

possibility of incorporating members of other militias is being discussed. The peace talks have led to calls for the unit's withdrawal being put on hold.

Stephane Bothma reports that Law and Order spokesman Craig Kotze said yesterday the number of internal stability unit members deployed in East Rand townships could soon be reduced. Government was considering alternative policing strategies in the area. "We are considering the possibility of assigning certain tasks—not related to normal policing—to the SADF," he said.

Inkatha Freedom Party Transvaal leader Themba Khoza said the party would strongly oppose such a move, SAPA reports. He said Inkatha had made numerous complaints about soldiers being deployed in the area after "losing 10 of its members in December last year, when 3,000 bullets were fired at civilians in a single incident".

Inkatha MP Hennie Bekker said the proposal to reduce the unit's East Rand presence would be viewed as the "final abdication of the NP [National Party] and government to the ANC/communist alliance."

In a separate development, Inkatha Transvaal deputy chairman Humphrey Ndlovu said his organisation would not take part in West Rand peace talks brokered by the SA Council of Churches [SACC].

Wilson Zwane reports that the proposed talks are aimed at reducing tensions in the West Rand township of Bekkersdal. A boycott of businesses in neighbouring Westonaria was called by the ANC and AZAPO [Azanian People's Organization] last month in protest at the presence of the internal stability unit and SADF troops in the township.

Ndlovu said the SACC was prejudiced against Inkatha, whose members it did not "regard as human beings". He added: "Churches affiliated to the SACC refuse to bury Inkatha supporters and to allow Inkatha to use their buildings for meetings." Because of this "bias", Inkatha was not taking part in talks.

SACC spokesman Bernard Spong said Ndlovu's statement was to be regretted as the SACC was impartial.

Also at today's talks, Mandela and De Klerk and their respective chief negotiators, Cyril Ramaphosa and Roelf Meyer, will discuss negotiations with the Freedom Alliance and ways of drawing Inkatha into a settlement.

De Klerk is insistent that the final deadline for changes to the constitution is next Monday. He has to sign the constitution into law by the end of January to meet the 90-day deadline before elections.

De Klerk will meet King Goodwill Zwelithini this afternoon at the king's request to discuss the role of a Zulu kingdom and KwaZulu under the new constitution. It is understood that De Klerk is likely to tell him that regions will have the power to draft their own constitutions.

Others To Participate in Talks

MB1701174494 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1600 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] A solution to bring peace to the violence-racked East Rand hasn't been found. State President F.W. de Klerk and ANC [African National Congress] President Nelson Mandela met again today to discuss the issue and indicated that other parties would have to be consulted.

[Begin recording] [De Klerk] The government has a specific role to play with regard to law and order and the prevention of violence. We've discussed our plans in that regard with Mr. Mandela. We will be discussing those plans also with the Transitional Executive Council. I will also be discussing them with Chief Minister Buthelezi because of the importance of the Inkatha Freedom Party in the conflict situation. We will be discussing it with the peace structures.

[Reporter Linda van Tilburg] Mr. De Klerk was commenting on his talks with Mr. Mandela this morning after meeting with French Foreign Minister, Mr. Alain Juppe. He indicated that an announcement could be made on addressing the East Rand violence by the end of the week. The president wouldn't confirm whether the Internal Stability Unit would be withdrawn from the East Rand, but said security force numbers could be boosted in strife-torn townships. Mr. Mandela was whisked away from the Union Buildings after refusing to talk about what had transpired during the meeting. He told TV news the issue was extremely sensitive. [end recording]

De Klerk, Zulu King Issue Communique After Meeting

MB1701185794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1743 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Pretoria Jan 17 SAPA—President F W de Klerk and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini have agreed that a working group be formed to urgently address ways in which the Zulu monarchy and kwaZulu Kingdom could be recognised and assured. After three hours of talks in Pretoria, they said in a joint communique the possibilities for this included constitutional options and multiparty agreements. Other issues of a more general nature would be discussed at multiparty negotiations that have been arranged for this week, Mr De Klerk said.

The communique said the king had expressed his concern at the lack of recognition for the position of the Zulu monarchy and kwaZulu in the transitional constitution. Mr De Klerk had assured the king of his high consideration for the king, the Zulu monarchy and the Kingdom of kwaZulu, and pointed out that adequate provision could be made for the entrenchment of these institutions in the envisaged provincial constitution. "He (Mr De Klerk) committed himself to support these institutions as strongly as he could," the joint statement said.

Mr De Klerk said he regretted the incidents of violence which surrounded the Zulu supporters' trek to Pretoria on Monday. He sincerely hoped the guilty would be brought to

book. Political differences should be resolved democratically and not through force, he said.

Police estimated 35,000 Zulu supporters went to the Union Buildings in support of their king.

Mr De Klerk said he and his ministers had also consulted the Zulu delegation, which included Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, on the framework for ending East Rand violence. Mr Buthelezi would reply to the proposals on Tuesday.

Mr Buthelezi said he also regretted the incidents of violence but the gathering at the Union Buildings had been voluntary and the IFP had had nothing to do with the event. The IFP opposed stayaways and it was not its policy to intimidate people.

On the participation of the Zulu people in the elections, King Zwelithini said that depended on how the issues discussed on Monday were handled. Mr Buthelezi added that the stance of his party was reflected by the Freedom Alliance's position.

Mr De Klerk said the government was not totally opposed to the double-ballot system, a major concern of the Zulu delegation. The issue would be discussed at multiparty talks this week.

The bilateral discussions with the Zulu kingdom would necessarily have to be broadened to multilateral discussions if they were to be fruitful, but that would not necessarily affect the January 24 Freedom Alliance talks deadline, said Mr De Klerk. However, the position of kwaZulu and the king had to be addressed with a great sense of urgency and well before the election.

Negotiations on outstanding points had become crucial and the government would approach them with a sense of urgency. Government was committed to "try to really find solutions on a multiparty basis which can ensure the inclusion of all significant parties in the electoral process", Mr De Klerk said.

PAC Leader Says APLA Suspending Armed Struggle

MB1601112094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1053 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 16 SAPA—The Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) was suspending the armed struggle it has been conducting through its military wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Army (APLA), PAC President Clarence Makwetu said on Sunday. The move opens the way for the PAC to take part in the April 27 election and for the inclusion of APLA members in a national peacekeeping force.

Mr Makwetu said the decision had been taken by the PAC's National Working Committee in the light of the promulgation of the Electoral Act and decisions reached at its annual conference in December last year. "The leadership of

APLA has started the process of informing its cadres throughout the country of this decision," Mr Makwetu said in a statement.

He said the PAC would pursue negotiations with the government to reach a mutual cessation of hostilities and to secure amnesty for APLA cadres in jail and exile. "We will also continue to negotiate with the regime and other parties to get all the armed formations in this country, including the South African Defence Force and the South African Police, under joint control. APLA will not disband until these goals have been reached." He said the PAC expected other armed formations to respond in kind.

A unilateral decision had been taken because the government was dragging out negotiations with the PAC and finding excuses to continue killing PAC members and raiding its offices, he said. "Because of our commitment to peace and free and fair elections, we are taking the regime's excuse and taking the initiative to create a climate to allow for further negotiations."

Mr Makwetu said the PAC would register as a political party and unveil its list of candidates and election manifesto within weeks. He said he remained confident of substantial support for the PAC in the elections in spite of opinion polls which give it little hope in the poll.

Negotiations, in particular on joint control of all armed formations, would determine whether the PAC would join the Transitional Executive Council (TEC). However, the TEC Act stipulates that only TEC members are eligible to have their soldiers included in a joint peacekeeping force.

The PAC move follows pressure from Tanzania and Zimbabwe on the PAC to rejoin the constitutional process and a threat by those countries to act against the PAC if APLA continued to operate from those territories, formerly supporters of its war on the South African Government.

Mr Makwetu said he could not rule out any further APLA attacks as it would take some time before all APLA cadres were informed of the decision.

Government, ANC Welcome Move

MB1601181194 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The government and the ANC [African National Congress] have welcomed the announcement by the PAC [Pan-Africanist Congress] that it is to suspend its armed struggle. The announcement comes after pressure on the organization by Tanzania and Zimbabwe to abide by the principles of peaceful negotiation.

Law and Order Minister Hernus Kriel has said it's high time that the PAC and its armed wing, APLA [Azanian People's Liberation Army], realized that violence and democracy do not mix.

ANC Spokesman, Carl Niehaus, welcomed the announcement, but said the organization's executive committee was studying it before making a full statement.

PAC Official Comments

*MB1601185494 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 16 Jan 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Today's decision by the Pan-Africanist Congress, PAC, of South Africa, to suspend its armed struggle has been widely welcomed by both the South African Government and the ANC [African National Congress]. The PAC's armed wing, the Azanian People's Liberation Front, APLA, is against the negotiated package of reforms, and attacks police officers and predominantly white venues in its fight against white rule. The PAC's decision follows widespread condemnation of its violent tactics from within and outside South Africa, including Tanzania, which on Tuesday [11 January] barred APLA from launching attacks from its territory. On the line to Johannesburg, Audrey Brown asked Thobile Gola, deputy secretary general of the PAC, why they have decided to suspend the armed struggle now.

[Begin recording] [Gola] Now that the Electoral Act was promulgated this week, we had to prepare ourselves for elections, and it is not feasible that you shoot this side and you campaign for elections this side. For the sake of peace and free and fair elections we wanted the PAC to be cleared of all forms of hostilities or so-called violence, so that they will remove all excuses that will deny the PAC an opportunity to participate freely in the elections.

[Brown] Could the adverse [word indistinct] are recent, and I say to you: The question of the PAC pursuing negotiations on the ending of hostilities started as far back as 1990. So, we are not really influenced by any recent bad publicity or attacks on white people. The PAC has all along been working toward a mutual ending of all hostilities by all the parties in conflict—that is, the regime and APLA in this case. But, that has not worked out. But now we are facing elections. It is our own decision to participate, and therefore we decided today to declare what we call a unilateral moratorium on armed struggle.

[Brown] So, does that mean that in your negotiations with the government you did not obtain mutual cessation of hostilities, as you call it?

[Gola] It has not been formally agreed. The negotiations with the regime will continue. We shall pursue those negotiations to reach a formal mutual cessation and get all that we need from them—the amnesty for all those people who are in prison and all those who are still in exile, and, of course, talk about what to do with the armed formations in the country. That agenda still stands and the regime was been dillydallying all the time when we demanded these meetings.

[Brown] But doesn't this weaken your position, the fact that you suspended your armed struggle now, because it seems like your main trump card against them was that you could launch attacks against them?

[Gola] No, our position is not weakened at all. The first thing you must understand is that by declaring ourselves ready to go to elections, we needed a climate of peace in the

country. We feel that we are not weakened. Actually, we are strengthening our position by taking that direction.

[Brown] But it is possible to see that in another light. It is possible to see it in the sense that the PAC is coming under growing pressure and it is losing support by pursuing an armed struggle and that is why you had to declare your suspension now?

[Gola] I am not sure about losing support. I do not know from whom are we losing support. We are pursuing a program here, and a decision was taken by the highest organ of the PAC to prepare for elections.

[Brown] Is there a sense of sadness in the PAC or amongst people that the armed struggle has been given up, because it seems like it was, you know, one of the things that the organization prided itself in, in that it was fighting back, it was fighting the South African Government?

[Gola] I have not received any report to say some people feel bad about it or feel sad, and therefore I am not worried about whatever fears you might have. [end recording]

APLA Commander Rejects Suspension

*MB1701154294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1529
GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 17 SAPA—The Azanian Peoples' Liberation Army [APLA] will continue its liberation struggle until its demands have been met, a caller claiming to be APLA Internal Commander Karl Zimbiri told SAPA in a telephone call on Monday evening. Mr Zimbiri, who identified himself to SAPA using a pre-arranged code, said regional and sectional commanders as well as ground forces of the Pan Africanist Congress' [PAC] armed wing had met in Bloemfontein for five hours on Monday. "We want it to be known that we are not uncontrollable," he said.

Asked if the three men killed in an attack on a police station in central Durban early on Monday were APLA members, he said he did not want to make any claims and would "leave this to the media's imagination".

While he respected PAC President Clarence Makwetu's decision to end the armed struggle, it was premature of him to announce this before the conclusion of APLA's negotiations with the South African Defence Force. "We will strike tomorrow and today...We are always on the offensive."

Mr Zimbiri said the ball was in the SADF's court. APLA would not surrender its arms to the "minority (President F W) de Klerk settler regime" until its demands had been met. These included a United Nations peace-keeping force, he said.

Callers Deny APLA Suspension

*MB1701210294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2035
GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 17 SAPA—Three callers, all claiming to be Azanian Peoples Liberation Army [APLA] leaders, told the South African Press Association on Monday night the armed struggle would continue. The first,

who claimed he was APLA Internal Commander Karl Zimbiri and used a pre-arranged codeword, said regional and sectional commanders as well as ground forces of the Pan Africanist Congress' [PAC] armed wing had met in Bloemfontein for five hours earlier in the day. While he respected PAC leader Clarence Makwetu, it was premature for Mr Makwetu to announce a moratorium in APLA's armed struggle. "We will strike tomorrow and today... We are always on the offensive," he said.

Later on Monday night two men, calling within seconds of one another and claiming to be APLA commanders, also rejected any cessation of hostilities. Neither was aware of an identifying codeword.

The man who said he was Ropa Hondo, "commander of special forces", stated: "APLA will not suspend the armed struggle and it is not true we have started to tell our forces on ground to prepare for a ceasefire or moratorium." Mr Hondo said he was calling from Grahamstown. "More blood will be spilled until the land is returned to its rightful owners, the toiling masses of Azania," he declared. Caller Hondo claimed APLA had always been suspicious of the PAC's participation in the World Trade Centre negotiations in Kempton Park and viewed the talks with contempt.

Within seconds, [words indistinct] told SAPA Mr Makwetu's decision had not been welcomed "by me or by forces on ground". "Claims that the APLA leadership has begun informing cadres of the moratorium is a lie," caller Haladi said. He added that the PAC was moving away from its original policy of armed struggle, and that the decision to suspend the fight had been made by bourgeoisie politicians. "The armed struggle will continue until our people have bread and their freedom."

De Klerk Comments on PAC Action

*MB1601191694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1856
GMT 16 Jan 94*

[Text] Johannesburg Jan 16 SAPA—State President FW de Klerk on Sunday welcomed the Pan Africanist Congress' [PAC] announcement that it has suspended its armed struggle, saying the decision would be conducive to bilateral negotiations. "I think it's a wise decision," Mr De Klerk said on the CCV [Contemporary Community Values] programme Newline. "That now, to my mind, prepares the table for further negotiations between us as a government and the PAC with regard to practical matters," he said.

Mr De Klerk expressed the hope that the decision would be obeyed by cadres of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the PAC's military wing. "I really do hope that they succeed in disciplining the APLA people to obey their policy decision and to fall in line and to also in practise stop with violent actions and planning violent deeds and making attacks."

ANC Criticizes IFP for 'Abusing' Position of Zulu King

*MB1801140194 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] The ANC [African National Congress] has lashed out at Inkatha. The ANC has accused the IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] of abusing the position of the Zulu king and the name of the Zulu people to further the political objectives of the IFP and its leader, Mangosuthu Buthelezi.

A statement from ANC Midlands spokesman Blade Nzimande says yesterday's march on the Union Buildings in Pretoria was part of the continued abuse of Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini. Nzimande said the fact of the matter is that people who marched to Pretoria yesterday were IFP members and not the entire Zulu nation. He's also expressed the ANC's condemnation of violence and thugery that occurred. He says the ANC regards yesterday's behavior of the IFP as a dress rehearsal of national destabilization in the future.

Mandela, French Minister Meet, Hold News Conference

*MB1801144394 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1351
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Pretoria Jan 18 SAPA—The danger of violence destabilising the process to democracy should not be underestimated, African National Congress [ANC] President Nelson Mandela said on Tuesday. Addressing a joint news conference with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe in Pretoria, he said there were minority groups which were not only concerned about their future and values, but which were determined to arrest all movement to a democratic future. It was the democratic movement's duty to address the fears of all South Africans, including those of minorities.

Mr Mandela said an holistic strategy should be applied to solve the violence. The plan discussed with President F W de Klerk could be jeopardised if details were published prematurely, because it involved a number of parties. But Mr Mandela said measures could include a region being declared a disaster area, that the entire community be involved in upgrading programmes, and that hostels be turned into family units.

Tremendous progress had been made in building a new South Africa, and there were many people who were determined to contribute to this process. The ANC would continue trying to involve the Freedom Alliance and other parties in the elections, but would proceed without them if necessary.

Polls which indicated a landslide election victory for the ANC were encouraging, said Mr Mandela but warned against complacency. The ANC should be on its toes, for while the government might be tagged as illegitimate, paralyzed by corruption, and accused of orchestrating violence, it remained devastatingly effective in elections.

The ANC's National Executive Committee would seriously and sympathetically consider an invitation from France for South Africa to join the Franco-African Conference, to be held in Paris this year.

Mr Juppe announced France was prepared to assist in training the national peacekeeping force. He added that few countries were interested in improving links with Africa, and were looking instead at the Pacific Rim or Latin America, but France would not forget Africa, and this would ensure a basis for co-operation.

Viljoen Denies Plans To Quit Afrikaner Front

MB1801103294 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 18 Jan 94 p 3

[Report by Chris Whitfield, political correspondent]

[Text] Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] (AVF) leader General Constand Viljoen—under growing pressure from supporters for decisive action—has warned that the nature of the struggle to achieve self-determination "may change in the near future".

In a statement issued yesterday, Viljoen said the next two weeks would provide clarity, but there were "strong indications that the Afrikaner will shortly stand before his toughest choice of the century". He rejected recent suggestions that his position in the AVF had been weakened and that he might quit the organisation. A right-wing source said recent comments by Viljoen were simply an indication that he believed his political role might be ending: "I imagine he was hinting at a military role he might have to play," said the source.

He said there was "concern, discontent and frustration" among grassroots supporters at the lack of progress in negotiations with the Government and the ANC [African National Congress]. They were saying to the AVF leadership: "I told you so...there is no alternative to war." However, Viljoen said in his statement that his role was not changing because of dissatisfaction over his performance but because the ANC and Government were limiting the options open to Afrikaners. The fact that the nature of the struggle could change soon was not his fault, but that of the Government and ANC who thought they were dealing with people who "bark but don't bite". He also claimed that the Government had shocked him by negotiating in a "spineless" manner with the ANC and had been dishonest in its dealings with the AVF.

Comments on Threats, Plots

MB1601124094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1136 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Pretoria Jan 16 SAPA—He was not aware of any specific, ultra-rightwing threat to his life, General Constand Viljoen, co-leader of the Afrikaner Volksfront [National Front] (AVF), said on Sunday. Reacting to reports that police had warned him of an ultra-rightwing plot to assassinate him, Gen Viljoen said he had not been given any specific information about such a threat.

He conceded though, that times were becoming dangerous, and that some sources said there was a threat from the African National Congress [ANC] side, others said from ultra-rightwingers, while others said it was government information which should be treated with circumspection. He knew of no specific threat against him, and his security arrangements remained on a normal level.

Turning to suggestions of rightwing disenchantment with his leadership, and talk that he was a government agent to moderate the rightwing, Gen Viljoen said he had long been aware of such talk, and saw it as part of a campaign to discredit him. "They will do anything to alienate me."

Gen Viljoen also dismissed suggestions that he may be on the verge of stepping down from his AVF position, saying he was committed to establishing a volkstaat [nation state] for his people. He said he had become disenchanted with the political vacillations of the National Party and the ANC, which made about- turns during negotiations for a volkstaat.

Gen Viljoen said he had never been expected to provide political leadership for the AVF, but strategic guidance.

If the government decided not to accommodate the Freedom Alliance [FA], the FA should discuss its future options. Asked what these options would be, he said: "Your guess is as good as mine."

IFP Opposes Withdrawal of Stability Units on East Rand

MB1601115894 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0900 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Inkatha will oppose a proposed withdrawal of the police's Internal Stability Unit [ISU] from the East Rand townships. Transvaal IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] leader Themba Khosa says his organization will also oppose the planned replacement of the controversial ISU with SADF [South African Defense Force] units. He was reacting to a statement by the Law and Order Minister?

he 'overnment is considering red ucing ISU members on'? Ra6d because of the continued instability in the region. The ministry said it's possible that the ISU could be replaced by soldiers.

The announcement is thought to arise from Tuesday's meeting between Nelson Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk. The ANC [African National Congress] leader went to that meeting with a number of proposals to end violence. Khosa says the IFP has made 7Hcomplaints about soldiers killing 10 of its members in December last year and 3,000 ?ere fired at civilians in a single incident. The IFP leader says it's well known that th?e causing problems in Kattel-hong are mem bers of the ANC's armed wing and its self-defense units.

IFP Notes Strike Call, Zulu 'Intimidation'

MB1701103494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0936 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] Durban Jan 17 SAPA—The Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] has taken "strong exception" to reports linking it to

widespread intimidation ahead of Zulu King goodwill Zwelithini's meeting with President F W de Klerk in Pretoria on Monday. IFP spokesman Ed Tillett said in a statement the party had distanced itself last week from the call to Zulus to stay away from work on Monday and dissociated itself from all acts of intimidation.

"The IFP has always campaigned against coercion to enforce stayaways and is not about to bow to political expedience on this principle," Mr Tillett said.

The call for a national Zulu stayaway had been made by the United Independent Trade Unions ad hoc committee of South Africa—an umbrella grouping representing 10 independent trade unions—after they had "canvassed the feelings of their members".

"Insofar as township residents on the reef linking alleged intimidators to the IFP, it must be remembered that all 'Zulus' on the reef are arbitrarily labelled 'Inkathas' by non-Zulus, irrespective of whether they are card-carrying members or supporters of the IFP or not," Mr Tillett said.

Winnie Mandela 'Most Popular Woman Candidate'

MB1601140594 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 16 Jan 94 p 4

[Article by Edyth Bulbring and Ray Hartley]

[Text] ANC [African National Congress] Women's League [ANCWL] president Winnie Mandela emerged as the most popular woman candidate on the ANC's national list of 200 candidates for Parliament presented at the organisation's nominations conference this weekend.

The ANC's national executive committee ruled that her kidnapping conviction would be classed as a political offence and she was therefore eligible to stand for Parliament.

More than 500 delegates from the ANC and its Patriotic Front allies met at a Johannesburg hotel yesterday to cast their final vote for national representatives to stand in the April 27 election.

The ANC's list of 200 candidates, which was compiled in December last year, will be altered slightly to accommodate candidates proposed by the Patriotic Front organisations.

The list of national candidates was drawn up after months of branch and regional conferences involving thousands of ANC-alliance members. The process cost over R[and]2-million.

The ANC's list shows overwhelming support for the ANC negotiators and has a strong racial and language mix.

ANC president Nelson Mandela tops the provisional list. International relations head Thabo Mbeki, secretary general Cyril Ramaphosa, SACP [South African Communist Party] chairman Joe Slovo, former Cosatu boss Jay Naidoo and senior negotiator Mohammed Vallie Moosa are in the top 10. Other candidates who received popular support

were Transkei military leader Major-General Bantu Holomisa, Natal Midlands leader Harry Gwala and former Youth League president Peter Mokaba.

In addition to Mrs Mandela, women candidates with much support were former Women's League secretary general Baleka Kgositsile, Hilda Ndude and Adelaide Tambo. Popular Western Cape executive member Cheryl Carolus, who was mooted as a possible Health Minister in a future cabinet, this week withdrew her name from the list saying she wanted to work on health issues.

In addition to finalising the list of 200 candidates for the national assembly, the ANC has drawn up a list of 200 regional representatives for the national assembly and its list of candidates for the provincial legislatures.

Seven candidates for the provincial premierships have already been decided, but contenders still have to be chosen for the Western and North West.

In the Western Cape, Umkhonto weSizwe [Spear of the Nation; MK—ANC military wing] militant Tony Yengeni and the more moderate Dr Allan Boesak are set to fight it out for the ANC nomination today.

Dr Boesak is expected to trounce Mr Yengeni.

The Western Cape premier nominations have been the scene of continuing battles between pragmatists who see Dr Boesak as the organisation's best chance to capture coloured voters and militants who see him as too moderate and unattractive to voters.

Mr Yengeni, an MK hardliner who is close to Mrs Mandela, was deposed as ANC Western Cape secretary last year after a fiery battle at the organisation's regional congress.

North West nominee Essop Pahad declined to stand this week, saying he felt he would not be the best person to attract ANC votes in the province. However, ANC sources have suggested the SACP secretariat instructed him to turn down the nomination. ANC election official Popo Molefe is being mooted as a possible candidate in Mr Pahad's place.

The ANC's deputy secretary-general Jacob Zuma is the ANC's choice for premier in Natal after beating the militant Natal Midlands leader Harry Gwala and southern Natal chairman Jeff Radebe.

The other candidates for premierships are Tokyo Sexwale for the PWV [Pretoria, Witwatersrand, Vereeniging], former UDF [United Democratic Front] secretary general Terror Lekota for the Free State, the late Oliver Tambo's speech writer Ngoako Ramatlhodi for the Northern Transvaal, legal department head Matthew Phosa for the Eastern Transvaal, Mane Dipico for the Northern Cape, and SACP central committee member and former Robben Island prisoner Raymond Mhlaba for the Eastern Cape.

Despite the voting at this weekend's conference, the ANC's national executive could make further changes to the list this week if they wish to include more women or candidates from areas which are not well represented.

Boesak Selected as ANC Candidate for Western Cape*MB1601170494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1558 GMT 16 Jan 94*

[Text] Cape Town Jan 16 SAPA—The African National Congress's [ANC] dream for a non-racial democracy would die if the movement was defeated in the Western Cape, ANC Western Cape regional chairman, Dr Allan Boesak, said on Sunday. He had just been elected the ANC candidate for premiership of the new Western Cape Provincial Government at a special conference held at the University of the Western Cape. The post of premier will replace the current provincial administratorship after the April 27 elections.

Dr Boesak beat his only opponent, legal and constitutional expert Dullah Omar, by 136 votes to 120.

Branch representatives of the ANC, the Congress of SA [South African] Trade Unions and the SA Communist Party cast their votes after a number of other candidates withdrew from the race. Dr Boesak said that in the coming election the Western Cape would be the test for the ANC's non-racial character. "If we loose this election the dream for a non-racial democracy, for the rest of our country as well, will die here. It is our responsibility to set the tone for the non-racial democracy which this country must become."

He said the reconstruction and development the ANC had spoken of would also be put into practice in this region. "That talk has not just been for elections," he said.

Government Wants Single Ballot Paper for Election*MB1801140394 Johannesburg Radio South Africa Network in English 1100 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] The government is not prepared to abandon its idea of a single ballot paper for the April election despite the objections of the Freedom Alliance. The government's chief negotiator, Mr. Roelf Meyer, said a single ballot paper was the sole option in view of the extent of voter illiteracy and uncertainty.

During his talks with President F.W. de Klerk yesterday, King Goodwill Zwelithini of the Zulus repeated that separate ballot papers were a condition for the Zulu participation in the election. The question will be high on the agenda when the Freedom Alliance holds talks with the government and the ANC [African National Congress] tomorrow.

ANC Urges Use of South African Police in Natal*MB1701162494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1559 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Text] Durban Jan 17 SAPA—The African National Congress [ANC] in northern Natal has again called for security forces to take over policing in the region where, it claims, at least four people have been killed since Saturday. In a statement on Monday, it said the latest flashpoint in the region was Buchanan near Ntambanana, about 30km east

of Empangeni. The statement said renewed violence started on January 9 when ANC member Bheki Ndlovu was killed in an ambush. "Despite the fact that the kwaZulu Police [KZP] were patrolling the area during the same evening, attacks continued." Several homes had been gutted by fire in a series of attacks since then, the ANC claimed.

Two supporters were killed during Mr Ndlovu's funeral on Saturday. They were identified by the ANC as Wiseman Cele and Phakaniseni Hlela.

On Monday morning Thokozani Patrick Mondo and Joshua Mofokeng were shot dead by a group which opened fire before burning several houses, the statement said.

The ANC demanded the South African Police and the defence force immediately take over policing in the Ntambanana area. It also called on the Goldstone Commission to investigate the latest violence.

The KZP confirmed weekend incidents in the area but was unable to supply details on Monday. Senior policemen in Ulundi were unavailable late on Monday to comment on the ANC's claims.

SADF, SAP, KZP Joint Action Contains Umlazi Violence*MB1701072194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0710 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Text] Durban Jan 17 SAPA—Joint action by the South African Defence Force [SADF], the South African Police [SAP] and the KwaZulu Police [KZP] succeeded in containing stay-away related violence which broke out at Umlazi south of Durban on Monday morning, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported. Police said all routes leading out of Umlazi had been reopened and security forces were deployed in the volatile areas.

Three people, including a member of the KwaZulu Police, were wounded in shooting incidents near the kwamnyandu station where public transport was attacked preventing commuters from going to work.

The policeman was shot while removing barricades blocking the road.

Bomb Explodes at ANC Office in Orange Free State*MB1501060694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0536 GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Text] Bloemfontein Jan 15 SAPA—A bomb has exploded at the African National Congress [ANC] offices in Harismith in the Orange Free State, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Saturday. A police spokesman said the ANC office in the Omega Building was the apparent target but no one was injured in the explosion. Extensive damage was caused to the building.

Further on Explosion

*MB1801072694 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0713
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Bloemfontein Jan 18 SAPA—An explosion in a building in Bothaville's main street on Monday night caused extensive damage to the African National Congress [ANC] office and adjacent shops, police reported. No one was injured.

[Orange] Free State liaison officer Maj Johlene van der Merwe told SAPA on Tuesday the blast occurred at about 10PM and was believed to have been caused by commercial explosives attached to the front of the building on the ground floor in President Street.

Police counted 69 windows shattered in the offices and adjacent chemist and fashion shop. No estimate of the damage was available.

Maj van der Merwe said police were investigating and believed the explosion was related to a similar blast at the ANC offices in Harrismith on Saturday.

New Legislation Allows Farm Workers To Join Trade Unions

MB1701200794 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] According to new legislation, approximately 1.2 million farm workers have the right to join trade unions and to negotiate better service conditions. According to a spokesman for COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions], the legislation follows a long struggle with the South African Agricultural Union [SAAU] and the government. The struggle was partly won last year after COSATU and Nactu [National Council of Trade Unions] forced the SAAU and the government to, among others things, extend the law on basic service conditions to the agricultural sector. Negotiations on the introduction of labor courts are still continuing.

[Begin COSATU spokesman Mike Madlala recording in English] Farm workers would now be in a position to bargain with their own employers, and if there is a deadlock on whatever bargaining that is taking place there will be procedures that would guide both parties as to what do they have to do in such events. [end recording]

A spokesman for the SAAU welcomed the legislation and said that for the first time there are official deadlock-breaking mechanisms.

Fourth AVF Radio Station To Begin Broadcasting

*MB1801141594 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1243
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Welkom Jan 18 SAPA—A fourth Afrikaner Volksfront [AVF, Afrikaner National Front] radio station in the [Orange] Free State will probably begin broadcasting from Viljoenskroon in about two weeks, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] radio news reported on Tuesday. The name of the station will be announced at a later date.

A spokesman for the private Volksfront company involved in the project, Mr Kerneels Dirksen, said the broadcasts would be received in Lichtenburg, Vereeniging, Vanderbijlpark and Welkom.

The other three Volksfront radio stations in the province are Radio Vryheid outside Bloemfontein, Radio Volkstem between Hennenamn and Ventersburg, and Radio Kopies.

VRYE WEEKBLAD Newspaper To Close 2 Feb

*MB1801103194 Johannesburg THE STAR in English
18 Jan 94 p 3*

[Report by Michael Sparks]

[Text] After more than five years of publishing the viewpoint of progressive Afrikaners, court judgments and a shortage of money have forced Vrye Weekblad to close from February 2, editor Max du Preez said yesterday. Foremost among the problems faced by the newspaper was a R[and]1.5 million defamation suit brought against it and the Weekly Mail by former police forensics chief Lieutenant-General Lothar Neethling.

The papers published stories in 1989 linking Neethling to death squad activities by allegedly providing poisons and knockout drops to former police captain Dirk Coetzee. The Supreme Court found the stories were true on overwhelming probability, a judgment that was overturned by the Appeal Court. The amount of compensation still has to be determined.

Du Preez was unrepentant, saying he would not have done anything different. "Our closure will leave a vacuum, but we played an interesting role. My regret is not being part of the election coverage. This effectively gives Nasionale Pers a monopoly of election coverage in the Afrikaans press."

Du Preez and his 10 editorial staff members are now looking for jobs, but he added that he had been approached last year to present one edition of AGENDA on TV1 each week.

South African Press Review for 16 Jan

MB1601124794

[Editorial Report]

SUNDAY TIMES

Life Under ANC Rule—"The national SUNDAY TIMES opinion 2: 11—one of the most comprehensive polls ever conducted in this country—brings a dash of cold reality to a political debate that has until now been wrapped in delusion and political deceit," begins the Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English on 16 January in a page 16 editorial. "The ANC [African National Congress] wins hands down, not only nationally but in seven of the nine provinces, and perhaps in all of them." De Klerk's ability to defend minority interests is doubted due to his own party's weak showing in the poll, while a question is also raised over the ANC's adherence to democratic principles. "Deep scepticism about the ANC's devotion to democracy is

understandable, especially while the ANC horse carries its SACP [South African Communist Party] jockey, but it's the best we have," especially in light of the poll results showing the Pan Africanist Congress, PAC, as blacks second choice. "Those whites who see Mr Mandela as the devil incarnate might reflect: it could be worse. This analysis defines rather neatly the task which lies ahead for the minority communities, and especially the white community: it is to help the ANC, after April 27, to make South Africa work," otherwise the country faces the possible "capture of power by a radical black nationalist PAC." What the country needs now is "a new breed of subtle men and women" like Finance Minister Derek Keys, who has shown how "honest consultation and wise diplomacy" can "woo the ANC towards success."

SUNDAY STAR

ANC Urged To Campaign Honestly—"Optimism about the future is understandable, particularly among South Africa's millions of unemployed black youth," begins the Johannesburg SUNDAY STAR in English on 16 January in a page 26 editorial. "Now with democracy just months away they believe the new government is going to improve education and provide jobs. And do this overnight. There is every reason to believe the ANC is going to try its damndest to deliver the goods, but it's going to take time, and the going will be tough," therefore, "the ANC must not make promises it cannot keep. The ANC must prepare the understandably impatient youth for the realities it will face when it moves into the Union Buildings in three months' time." "If it promises the earth and can't deliver in the short term, there's going to be more than heartache as a result," concludes the SUNDAY STAR.

BEELD

Right Wing Alliance Pursuit for Homeland—"At the end of last year, when the right wing began their hesitant dialogue with the African National Congress, General Constand Viljoen declared that they would [word indistinct] in a page 8 editorial. "Just a few weeks later the very same general and his co-leaders were forced to throw in the towel; the ANC was also not going to give it to them. Now they are looking at 'other ways' of achieving their homeland." "The Freedom Alliance, and in particular right-wing Afrikaners, must realize that one door after another is being closed to them because they are failing to use their options and come forward with realistic plans. The government realized a while ago that the right wing rarely used a rational approach. Now Mr. Nelson Mandela is apparently also beginning to discover this. It is necessary for everyone to realize that the losers will not be those on whose behalf Messrs Mandela and De klerk speak. It will be Messrs Buthelezi, Viljoen, Hartzenberg, and Mangope's followers who, because of the shortsighted actions of their leaders, are being defined out of the creation process of the new politics. Even Ciskei's Oupa Gqozo could see that."

Black Matriculants' Performance 'Pathetic'—A second editorial on the same page of BEELD says that "the pathetic performance of black matriculants in the end-of-year examinations surprises no one. The tragedy was foretold during

the course of last year. Now the bitter fruit of timely warnings, which no one heeded, are being plucked. It is true that black education is not up to standard. Yet at those black schools where discipline was maintained, students did very well. There were even schools where all the matriculants passed their examinations. The political misuse of pupils, vandalism, organized stayaways by pupils, and strikes by teachers, who act only in self-interest, were the offenders who contributed most to the poor results. Fortunately, it seems that those who caused the anarchy are beginning to come to their senses. The Congress of South African Students has called on pupils to return to school and cultivate a culture of learning, and the South African Democratic Teachers' Union has committed itself to a disruption-free school year in 1994."

South African Press Review for 17 Jan

MB1701150094

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

"The ANC [African National Congress] programme of reconstruction deserves careful appraisal, not knee-jerk rejection," begins the editorial on page 8 of the 17 January edition of Johannesburg THE STAR in English. The editorial admits that some people fear the ANC document outlining its reconstruction and development plans "signals regression to the ANC's earlier infatuation with socialism and nationalization." "Those anxieties," THE STAR continues, "should be tempered by the knowledge that the programme is the product of hours of debate." The editorial notes that the ANC program rests on "three pillars": "that 'lavish wealth and abject poverty' coexist; that these inequalities coincide largely with race and are the product of decades of apartheid; and that market forces alone will not rectify the legacy of apartheid and that, consequently, a state programme of reconstruction and development is indispensable." According to THE STAR, those propositions "are reasonable, perhaps even indisputable."

SOWETAN

The "Comment" column on page 8 of the Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 17 January views the Pan-Africanist Congress's [PAC] decision to suspend its armed struggle: "The PAC's stand is to be commended as it spells the reduction of the level of v?cially from its youthful but militant constituencies which could be exploited by forces bent [words indistinct]."

South African Press Review for 18 Jan

MB1801134994

[Editorial Report]

THE STAR

PAC Decision To End Armed Struggle Welcome—The Pan-Africanist Congress (PAC) decision to end the armed struggle "is an excellent development," declares a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg THE STAR in English on 18

January. "Yes, many South Africans will feel angered at Clarence Makwetu's blithe announcement, after years of disingenuously denying that the PAC had any control over its armed wing." Although the cease fire will "take some time to come into force" we "can look forward to less killing." The country can "look with some confidence towards a more inclusive election." Ultimately, the "legitimacy of the transition process has been bolstered by Makwetu's announcement."

BUSINESS DAY

ANC Economic Promises—Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 18 January in a page 4 editorial finds the African National Congress (ANC) alliance's Reconstruction and Development Program "more specific about the promises" it is making. But, "is it specific enough about the macroeconomic context in which they will be delivered?" "It is not enough to say that 'undue inflation' and balance of payments problems should be avoided. An overheating economy, with soaring inflation and high imports, could bring the programme to a premature end. A stronger commitment is needed on macroeconomic discipline, as unpalatable as that might be politically."

RAPPORT

Editorial Calls for Moderate Front Against ANC—The "Comment" column on page 14 of Johannesburg RAPPORT in Afrikaans on 16 January analyzes the ANC's election manifesto and its "so-called program of reconstruction" which it says "even frightens political appeasers of the past year. Even the most optimistic of them can no longer believe what they had earlier announced with great positiveness: That the ANC has renounced nationalization and that it had become a protagonist of a free market system with a little tinge of socialism merely for the sake of its constituency." Hopefully it will make those who applauded Mr. Mandela's so-called "assurance" more careful. It appears that as election day draws closer, and the ANC feels increasingly assured of an election victory, "the organization is bent on getting its grip on any support it can get hold of—from education to mines, from land ownership to the civil service." "It is a good thing that the ANC's ominous future plan for totalitarian state control and interference became known just in time—in time by all moderate people and parties involved in the present negotiations for a new dispensation." "Due to the ANC's radical socialist and racist principles, such negotiations are gaining a totally new urgent dimension. What is important right now is to stop the ANC on 27 April." "Participation must be the password to all. The basis for a broad moderate front against the ANC must be established without delay. After 27 April it will all be too late."

Angola**Update on Events at Lusaka Peace Talks 15-18 Jan****Police Posts Offered to UNITA**

MB1501070394 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network in Portuguese 0400 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The Angolan Government has offered 16 percent of police posts to the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA], but the latter feels it is too little and wants 40 percent. A source monitoring the Lusaka talks told the Portuguese news agency, LUSA, that UNITA has questioned the government's failure to specifically state what posts will be filled by UNITA members. UNITA wants to know how many generals, captains, and agents will form part of the police, and what percentage of each of those posts will be accorded to the organization.

Beye Urges UNITA To Review Stand

MB1601112294 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0700 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] There is nothing new in Lusaka, and the issue on police has not yet been overcome. Negotiators, observers, and mediators have been observing a pause since yesterday afternoon, and the talks will only resume tomorrow. It seems that Chief Blondin Beye wants the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] to change its stand. He wants a more responsible UNITA to assume a position that meets the highest aspirations of the Angolan population. Our correspondent Pedro Manuel reports:

[Begin Manuel recording] Blondin Beye is still trying to approach the two delegations, which until now maintained distant positions on the national police issue. It seems that Beye is still making efforts to persuade UNITA in particular to review its position, which is not supported by anyone. The fact that Jonas Savimbi's men remain hardened in their position leads analysts in Lusaka to reiterate their view that UNITA may break this negotiating round at any time. The talks resume on 17 January, and the mediators and observers will continue working on approaching the negotiating teams to begin discussing specific principles. [end recording]

UNITA Presents New 8-Point Document

MB1701203594 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] In Lusaka, the government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] are still seeking peace for Angola. Another week of activity began in Lusaka today, after 12 days that were practically unproductive. The Troika officials continue to hold separate meetings with the two delegations with a view to bringing them closer on specific problems connected with the national police formation. [Word

indistinct] at about 1000, and one hour later the government delegation was back at its hotel. UNITA left the conference center at 1300.

It is believed that UNITA has held contacts with its leadership in Huambo, as was its desire on 14 January, [words indistinct] Black Cockerel's negotiators placed on the negotiating table a new document of about eight points which (?contrast) [words indistinct]. After the introduction of this new document by UNITA, observers comment that the government delegation will need an opportunity to reply, as will the mediators, in order to draft the master document.

Mediators, Observers Meeting Separately

MB1801084594 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Text] The Angolan peace talks are continuing at a snail's pace in Lusaka, the Zambian capital. No consensus has been reached yet concerning issues pertaining to the future national police force. Lusaka today should see the mediators hold separate meeting, with the negotiating teams. Pedro Manuel, our correspondent in the Zambian capital, reports:

[Begin Manuel recording] Good morning, dear listeners. Yet another day opens without consensus on the future national police issue, all because there continue to be differences in the positions adopted by the two negotiating teams. Today, the mediators and observers are expected to continue holding separate meetings with the negotiating teams. Since 13 January, the negotiators have been seeking an understanding that will allow discussions to begin on specific principles and modalities governing the future national police force. At their separate meetings, the negotiating teams have been delivering to the observers their written views on what they believe the aforesaid specific principles should be. However, no gap has been bridged yet, so UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye and the peace process observers have decided to continue holding separate meetings. [end recording]

Cuba's Robaina Discusses Relations With U.S.

MB1701084794 Luanda TPA Television Network in Portuguese 1930 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] There are very strong historic links between Angola and Cuba. The two peoples have been united in very difficult and complex circumstances. That was said today by Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina prior to his departure for Harare at the end of a two-day working and friendly visit to Angola.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Mr. Minister, I would like to know what Cuba expects from your visit to Angola and other African countries?

[Robaina in Spanish] Cuba expects from Angola and other African countries what we expect from the world. When someone thinks that we expect a solution to our

problem from Angola, the world or any particular country, please, the solution to Cuba's problem depends first and foremost on the Cubans themselves and a mechanism that it maintains with many in the world. There is nothing in particular, least of all Angola in view of the difficulties we know it is facing, which holds the solution to our problem. The solution to our problem does not lie in those quarters only. Cuban expects from Angola and the world what Cuba also advocates to the world—understanding and (?sincere) respect.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, would you like to characterize the current state of relations between the Cuba and the United States, bearing in mind that despite the blockade the United States has an interest office in Havana?

[Robaina] Well, relations with a country can be characterized when they are in place. When that is not the case, it is very difficult to characterize relations because there are no relations between Cuba and the United States. (?Like the United States,) Cuba has always stood (?for legal) [words indistinct] Cuba is willing to deal with the whole world, including the United States, but only on one condition—absolute respect. If there is no absolute respect, we will have nothing to do with the United States.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, we have also learned of a certain exodus of Cubans to the United States. The latest case to be widely reported in the Western media was about the Cuban sportsmen who took part in the Central American Games. What prompts such an exodus?

[Robaina] I think my country is a Third World country. It is the same thing that prompts poor countries of the world, the difference being that none of them is as famous as Cuba. None of those countries (?is as politicized) as Cuba. Cubans have the same difficult reasons like other peoples. They have been capable of giving in to a degree of pressure and to promises, but they are insignificant when compared to the millions of people who continually cross the U.S. border, namely Haitians [words indistinct] I do not think any of them is as famous as a Cuban. It is sufficient to have a Cuban and have scandal, a show [preceding word in English]. [end recording]

Savimbi Warns of Response To MPLA Attacks

LD1401214794 Lisbon RDP Antena 1 Radio Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] states that it wants to talk to the government about peace, but warns that if the MPLA [Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola] attacks continue, then its men will respond the same way. This is the message coming out of a communique released today and signed by Jonas Savimbi.

The communique again refers to the controversial September 1992 elections issue, the UNITA leader states he is against the judicial instruments and the methods used

in the same legislative elections. He states that the elections were neither fair nor transparent. The number of warnings contained in the communique is immense. UNITA states that if the MPLA continues to bomb cities, then UNITA will react even more, because the government party is corrupt and unable to rule the country without weapons.

Government Responds to Communique

LD1501010594 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 2200 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Text] The Angolan Government has already responded to Jonas Savimbi's communique. A source of the Angolan Government delegation to the Lusaka talks said that they were unaware of any air bombardment. According to the source, what happened on Wednesday in the geographical area between Pungi and the city of Cuito was a clash that originated in a dispute over air-dropped food. During the incident, some Angolan Armed Forces and UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] soldiers were killed, as well as several civilians.

UNITA Says Cuban 'Mercenaries' in Cuanza

MB1801055494 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 1900 GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] In a communique received at our news desk this afternoon, through our correspondent Moraes Abel, the military command of the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] in the Cuanza Norte Military Region has reported the presence in Cambambe and Dondo of a large number of well-equipped Cuban and Katangese mercenaries. According to the communique, these forces, acting jointly with the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola and the riot police, have the mission of occupying all areas under control of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA] in Cuanza Norte, particularly the city of Ndalatando, the provincial capital. The FALA military command said the mercenaries [words indistinct] will not find a room for maneuvers and will be repulsed. The military command has warned the international community of the danger that this Eduardo dos Santos' adventure represents for the Angolan people and the ongoing peace talks in Lusaka.

'Sources' Report on Luanda Offensive Plans

MB1801084694 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 18 Jan 94

[Excerpts] Luanda-based sources have reported that the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT] is preparing to launch an important military offensive on various fronts with the aim of inflicting military defeats on the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, UNITA. Those sources say that the MPLA-PT media have been stepping up their propaganda campaign, reporting alleged UNITA

attacks on all Angolan provinces and suggesting that the Lusaka peace talks are about to break down, thereby psychologically preparing the Angolan people and the international community for its offensive. [passage omitted]

Sources in Luanda say that many tonnes of war materiel are arriving daily in Luanda Harbor and Luanda Airport. Most of that war materiel is highly sophisticated and comes mainly from former Eastern Bloc countries, notably the Russian Federation which is, ironically, one of the Angolan peace process observers attending the Lusaka talks. Other countries supplying war materiel to Luanda are Brazil and Spain. Furthermore, Angolan reporter Aguiar dos Santos has reported that new consignments of sophisticated military equipment are constantly arriving at Catumbela Airport. Such equipment includes 6,000 Brazilian-made X-40 and X-60 missiles, for which the MPLA-PT recently paid \$160 million.

Diplomatic figures in Luanda have said that the secrecy UN Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye has imposed on the Lusaka peace talks has been of great assistance to the MPLA-PT's propaganda campaign and that the United Nations should demand that the MPLA-PT behaves in a manner compatible with the peace talks currently under way. [passage omitted]

A source in the Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] General Staff told the Voice of the Resistance of the Black Cockerel yesterday that the loss of the city of Soyo by the MPLA-PT had left that party's ruling class without financial mobility and deprived the Defense Ministry of the benefits it used to enjoy, ranging from the acquisition of weapons at any price to a lack of control over logistics-related spending. That FALA General Staff source further noted that, contrary to what [Petroleum Minister] Albino Maria Assis had tried to have the Angolan people believe, oil exploitation in Soyo has already reached 120,000 barrels per day. Albino Assis had said that Soyo produced only 40,000 barrels per day. Should Mr. Assis' claims prove to be true, then the other 80,000 barrels were being diverted to labyrinthine power structures that must still be identified, including the Ministry of State Security, Minse, and the Directorate of Intelligence and Security of Angola, DISA, which used to have a powerful presence in Soyo.

That source also disclosed that a daily 40,000 barrels of oil were taken from the offshore [preceding word in English], while 80,000 barrels were extracted from land oil fields.

Vorgan promises to present evidence concerning the [words indistinct].

Rebel Radio Reports Cuban Troops' Action

*MB1501080494 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo
Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Text] The orthodox communist government of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola-Labor

Party [MPLA-PT] has once again signed cooperation accords with the Cuban Government. Angolan circles have interpreted the move as a return to the days of the Russian-Cuban domination with dangerous consequences for Angola and its negotiating process. The cooperation accords were signed in Luanda yesterday by Venancio de Moura and Roberto Robaina, Fidel Castro's envoy and foreign affairs minister of the island of tobacco. Roberto Robaina carried a message from Fidel Castro which says Cuba is interested in sending occupation troops in exchange for Angolan crude. The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola will never tolerate this because it violates the New York Accord signed by Cuba, South Africa, and Namibia. The accord resulted in Namibia's independence and the withdrawal of 60,000 Cubans from Angola.

Asked to comment on yesterday's accord, a senior Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] official said Cuba misses the profits it earned through the war it waged in Angola, but it should be reminded that the days of empires are over.

Yesterday Western diplomats were cited by Johannesburg's Channel Africa as fearing the resumption of Angolan-Cuban relations could endanger the Lusaka talks.

After having failed to recruit mercenaries of various nationalities, the Luanda regime has opted for a return of the invading Cuban forces which plunged the country into chaos over the 16 years of their presence in Angola. There is nothing more clear about Eduardo dos Santos' shady deals with Fidel Castro than the irony of the Angola-Cuba commercial relations which are nothing but military relations. The presence of Cubans in the ranks of the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] is a fact in Cunene and Huila Provinces. Americo Paulino, our correspondent in the region, has the details:

Over 10 trucks crossed the Namibian-Angolan border between 12 and 13 January 1994, carrying a Cuban contingent. The trucks headed to N'Giva. Part of the Cuban contingent will be deployed in Huila to beef up FAPLA units (?stationed) along the Lubango-Cacula-Quilenges-Caluquembe axis. Other members of the Cuban contingent will be sent to Cuvelai to reinforce FAPLA units in the Jamba-(Catuca) region to occupy the Kuvango District and then head to Huambo.

FALA's Operational Command for the independent Cunene region has questioned the remarks made by Alioune Blondin Beye, UN special representative in Angola, at a news conference. UNITA has a lot of respect for Beye who said Mr. Sam Nujoma, chairman of the South-West African People's Organization and president of the Republic of Namibia, has contributed greatly to the Angolan peace process. The question is: How can Namibia contribute to peace if that country is used as a springboard for foreign (?aggression)?

FALA forces are aware of the MPLA-PT's Machievelian maneuvers to deceive the Angolan and international communities with its willingness to negotiate while Cubans enter Angola through Namibia.

Lesotho

Air Force Commander Shot 15 Jan, Held by Captives

MB1501060494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0551 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] Maseru Jan 15 SAPA—The commander of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force's air wing, Lt Col Patrick Majare, who was shot in a clash between two rival military factions outside Maseru on Friday, was reportedly still held captive by mutineers on Saturday morning, SABC [South African Broadcasting Corporation] TV news reported. The clash between two opposing factions of the Lesotho military was apparently caused by dissatisfaction over pay structures. Other reports had it that Col Majare was being treated at Maseru's Queen Elizabeth II Hospital. The South African Government on Friday offered to have Col Majare transferred to a South African hospital for treatment.

RSA's Botha Offers Assistance

MB1501130294 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1222 GMT 15 Jan 94

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Maseru Jan 15 SAPA—Foreign Minister Pik Botha jetted into Maseru on Saturday at the request of the Lesotho Government to assist in defusing a potentially explosive situation involving rebel soldiers.

Disgruntled members of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force were still holding hostage the wing commander of the country's Air Force, Lt- Col Patrick Majare on Saturday after they shot him during an armed confrontation on Friday morning. Wing Commander Majare was believed to be under armed guard in a Maseru hospital following an operation to an injured shoulder carried out by a civilian doctor.

The rebel soldiers have ignored pleas from the government to release the commander so he can receive further medical treatment in Bloemfontein.

The situation in the capital of the tiny mountain kingdom appeared calm on Saturday, with shops trading and residents going about their business as usual.

By lunchtime Mr Botha had met senior government and opposition figures, including the Prime Minister and Defence Minister Dr Ntsu Mokhehle. After lunch he was scheduled to meet with all the senior army officers, before trying to bring the two factions face-to-face to resolve their differences.

The rebel soldiers ostensibly are demanding a doubling of their salaries, but South African and Lesotho Government sources confirmed to SAPA it appeared the salary issue was a smokescreen for political grievances. The real issue is believed to be opposition to the ruling Basotho-land Congress Party. Lesotho and South African Government officials have not ruled out an attempted coup.

However, the leader of the main opposition party—the Basotho National Party—on Saturday scoffed at such speculation. Mr E R Sekhonyane admitted the situation was serious but said the chances of resolving it were good. "I don't even want to think of a coup," he told SAPA after a meeting with Mr Botha at the home of South Africa's Ambassador Gerhard Visser.

Mr Botha, speaking after his first round of talks, stressed the region could not afford more conflict and disruption. Southern Africa would end up being ignored by the First World if it didn't get its house in order, he said.

Resolution of the issue depended largely on goodwill from all sides, Mr Botha said. He warned even such a seemingly small issue as a pay dispute could blow up into a major problem: "Don't even start a small fire. You don't know how much dry grass there is around," Mr Botha said.

Both Mr Botha and Lesotho Foreign Minister Molapo Qhobela were at pains to point out Mr Botha's visit was at the request of Maseru. "The prospects are good of resolving this thing," Foreign Minister Molapo Qhobela said. "We've had a coup before, and it would be silly if the people of Lesotho were now to have another."

He pointed out that all the country's political parties had issued a joint statement on Friday calling on the disgruntled soldiers to lay down their arms. "This little problem can be resolved," Mr Qhobela said.

Mr Botha is scheduled to fly back to Pretoria around 5PM on Saturday.

Botha Comments on RSA Position

MB1501170494 Maseru Radio Lesotho in English 1600 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] Clashes between factions of the Lesotho armed forces have caused concern in the country and in South Africa as well. Four helicopters of the Lesotho Army flew into South Africa yesterday, and apparently the plan was to escape the skirmish in Maseru, and are grounded at Ladybrand.

The South African foreign minister, Mr. Pik Botha, arrived in Lesotho aboard a private jet today to discuss the Lesotho Armed forces' fracas with Defense Minister, the Right Honorable Prime Minister, Dr. Ntsu Mokhehle; cabinet ministers; commanders of the army and the police; as well as the opposition leader, Mr. Sekhonyane.

In an interview with our reporters Mr. Botha said South Africa will never recognize any government taken by force in Lesotho. He said he had come to Lesotho to establish the nature of the fracas within the Lesotho armed forces, but not to dictate terms to the Lesotho Government. Mr. Botha said after consultations with the Lesotho authorities he was assured that the military problem will be solved peacefully.

Opposing Factions Negotiate Truce

MB1501173494 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1650 GMT 15 Jan 94

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Maseru Jan 15 SAPA—Fears of a possible coup in Lesotho by rebel soldiers were quashed on Saturday with the help of South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha. However, Mr Botha warned at the end of a one day visit to the tiny mountain kingdom South Africa would not recognise any Lesotho government which came to power by force. Pretoria would bring such a government to its knees, he told a press conference before jetting out. "We will make it impossible for such a government to survive," he said. "We will close the border." Mr Botha was confident a new South African Government would also not recognise a Lesotho Government which came to power by a coup.

He was leaving the enclave confident, however, that the critical situation had been defused. He had received a commitment from the two opposing defence force factions which clashed on Friday that they would negotiate a truce.

The cause of the clash supposedly was a demand by the rebel group for a doubling of army salaries. But Lesotho and SA [South African] Government officials told SAPA on Saturday it appeared the dissidents had political grievances, and were preparing for a possible coup.

The ruling Basotholand Congress Party swept to power in March last year, ousting [words indistinct] on Friday, but said the pilots and their aircraft were being looked for. They are expected to return soon to Lesotho. SAPA was informed four helicopters landed in Ladybrand across the border in the Orange Free State. The reason for the pilots' [words indistinct] that their commander, Lt-Col Patrick Matare [name as received], was injured in Friday's clash and they feared the rebel soldiers were after them too.

Mr Botha said he had been assured Col Matare was in a satisfactory condition in hospital in the capital, and there was no need to accept a SA Government offer to have him treated in Bloemfontein. The commander, who was still being held hostage by the rebels on Saturday afternoon, was reportedly shot in the shoulder. A civilian doctor operated on him.

Mr Botha first met separately with all the parties involved, including the two army factions, before bringing them together face-to-face.

The minister and his hosts were at pains to point out he had been invited to Lesotho to assist and was not "barging in". "I did not come here to preach," he said, pointing out South Africa had its own problems with violence. He said his basic message to the parties was the region could ill-afford more confrontation if it wanted to attract foreign investment. Any problems in Lesotho could also affect the highlands water project.

He had also pointed out the Lesotho Government, like South Africa's, did not have the money to increase salaries willy-nilly.

"The future of Africa and the world will depend very heavily on economic development," Mr Botha said. He added he had urged the soldiers to tackle the "real enemy"—the social upliftment of Lesotho's people.

Minister on Actions of 'Certain' Leaders

MB1501195094 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in English 1800 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Excerpts] A day of high drama in the mountain kingdom of Lesotho has come to a peaceful end. Clashing factions in the Royal Lesotho Defense Force resolved their difference late this afternoon. Tension between rival factions in the armed forces erupted into an armed confrontation yesterday, and Air Force Wing Commander Patrick Majare, was seriously wounded in a skirmish. [passage omitted]

[Begin Foreign Minister Molapo Qhobela recording] There are certain political leaders in the kingdom of Lesotho who are deliberately instigating certain rebellious elements in the Royal Lesotho Defense Force with the hope that if there is a mutiny or a clash in the army, the present democratically elected government will be overthrown, and they will just walk in here. I am not mentioning names, but if the cap fits, they can wear it. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Calm Reported in Capital 16 Jan

MB1601120194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0913 GMT 16 Jan 94

[By David Greybe]

[Text] Maseru Jan 16 SAPA—Maseru was calm for a second day running on Sunday following Friday's clash between two armed factions of the mountain kingdom's defence force. Sporadic firing was heard on Saturday night, but according to reports it wasn't serious. The shots came from the Makoanyane Military Base about 11km outside the capital, home of the faction whose demand for a doubling of army salaries led to the clash. Residents nearby told SAPA on Sunday it appeared the shots had been fired into the air, and there were no reports of injuries.

Members of the Royal Lesotho Defence Force's Reccie Unit—the other faction which is believed to be loyal to the government—remained stationed in the mountains on the outskirts of Maseru on Sunday.

Fears of a possible coup in the tiny enclave were quashed on Saturday with the help of South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha. He flew in at the request of the Lesotho Government, met separately with all the parties involved—including political—and brokered a truce. However, Mr Botha told his guests South Africa would not tolerate a Lesotho Government which came to power by force, and vowed to bring it to its knees.

Lesotho and South African Government officials confirmed to SAPA the pay issue was believed to be a smokescreen for political opposition to the ruling Basotholand Congress Party, which swept to power in elections last year.

Mr Botha also met the leader of the main opposition Basotho National Party during his one-day visit.

Government, Opposition To Meet 19 Jan

*MB180105594 London BBC World Service in English
1830 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Suspicions still linger in Lesotho that there were political motives behind last week's army mutiny. Ostensibly it was all about 100-percent pay rise the soldiers were demanding. But there has been talking of rival factions developing with some elements of the defense force openly opposed to the 10-month-old government led by Ntsu Mokhehle. At the weekend South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha intervened and calm appeared to have been restored, but there are still a few political rifts to be patched up, as Candy Ramanoene reports in this telex from Maseru:

The capital Maseru was calm today with shops and businesses open as usual. Military presence was less than it has been over the past three days, but people are still fearful of further shootings. It is still not known what has happened to the soldiers involved in the incidents, but it is thought that they are under arrest. No statement has, however, come from the government. The prime minister, Ntsu Mokhehle, today announced that on Wednesday [19 January] they will be having a meeting with members of seven political parties to try and work out a solution to the crisis, but surprisingly, the two main opposition parties, the BNP [Basotho National Party] and the royalist Marematlou Freedom Party are unlikely to be at the meeting, because they haven't signed, unlike the other seven parties, the letter requesting an urgent meeting with the prime minister.

Political observers here say that popular opinion firmly believe that the prime minister should not give into the soldiers' demand for 100-percent pay rise. Despite the

party's denial, the talk on the streets is that BNP was somehow behind the weekend's incident.

Mozambique

Chissano Unaware of Dhlakama Comments on Arms Smuggling

*MB160115994 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 0800 GMT 16 Jan 94*

[Text] President of the Republic Joaquim Chissano has told the weekly DOMINGO newspaper that he does not remember having discussed with Afonso Dhlakama, leader of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo], the alleged involvement of General Domingos Fondo in the smuggling of arms. In the interview, Chissano said it is possible that he may remember later on having had a conversation with Dhlakama on the issue. The Mozambican head of state added that there are institutions to investigate whether there is a basis in the accusation of the Renamo leader. He concluded that once the process begins, Dhlakama may give his contribution.

PRC Envoy Views Bilateral Cooperation

*MB1801130894 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1030 GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] PRC Ambassador to Mozambique (Li Chi Heng) has announced that PRC entrepreneurs are interested in investing in various social and economic areas in Mozambique. The PRC diplomat said that there are two joint fishing companies in operation in Mozambique at this stage and that PRC entrepreneurship is involved in those companies.

Commenting on bilateral cooperation, the PRC ambassador said that there are nine PRC medical doctors working in Maputo Central Hospital, two of whom are on contract.

UN Envoy Comments on Paying Demobilized Troops

*MB1601205094 Maputo Radio Mozambique Network
in Portuguese 1730 GMT 16 Jan 94*

[Text] Aldo Ajello, special representative of the UN secretary general in Mozambique, has said in Maputo that demobilized troops from the government and the Mozambique National Resistance could receive salaries for 18 to 24 months. Aldo Ajello is quoted by DOMINGO weekly as having said that the payment of salaries for 18 to 24 months will depend on the extent of the international community's contribution toward the peace process. The issue was raised last month at the meeting the Mozambican Government with the Paris Consultative Group, made up of the World Bank and donors.

Namibia**SWAPO To Support ANC in South African Election***MB1701172994 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1647 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[Text] Windhoek Jan 17 SAPA—Namibia's ruling SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] party has thrown its weight behind the African National Congress [ANC] with a week-long national campaign to raise election funds and support for its old ally. The show of solidarity was to have begun with a rally addressed by ANC President Nelson Mandela and Namibian President Sam Nujoma in Windhoek on January 27, but Mr Mandela cancelled his visit. ANC spokesman Gill Marcus said the ANC President had other engagements.

SWAPO Secretary-General Moses Garoeb said senior ANC and SWAPO officials would address meetings and rallies across Namibia to raise money for the ANC's election coffers. He said SWAPO's support for the ANC was part of the responsibility it felt towards South Africa. SWAPO was confident of, and hoped for an ANC landslide victory and felt a need to contribute in the same way the ANC had helped SWAPO to victory in the 1989 Namibian elections.

Mr Garoeb said SWAPO believed the ANC, with its "pragmatic and experienced leadership", was the party best structured to manage a post-election South Africa and keep southern Africa stable.

Money would be raised at SWAPO branch and regional level in cooperation with the National Union of Namibian Workers. Mr Garoeb appealed to all South Africans living in Namibia to register and vote for the ANC on April 27.

In an editorial on Monday, the Windhoek Advertiser warned that SWAPO's support for the ANC risked drawing Namibia into a partisan role in a potential future civil war. "In the event of a troubled South Africa plunging into civil strife of proportions where factions go over to guerrilla war and unrestricted sabotage, Namibia will not be spared. Our allegiance with the ANC will under such circumstances be on the debit side of Namibia's interests," wrote editor Hannes Smith.

Mr Garoeb dismissed Mr Smith's comment as the "cry-baby attitude and professional negativism from a confirmed pessimist" who could not see anything good about the SWAPO government.

Zambia**Chiluba Optimistic About Lusaka Peace Talks***MB1501081094 Lusaka Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 94*

[Text] President Chiluba has said he is optimistic that the Angolan peace talks will bear fruit. Mr. Chiluba said

in Lusaka yesterday that after the Angolan peace talks, which might lead to the African continent to [words indistinct] sooner than expected. The president was speaking when receiving credentials from Botswana's high commissioner to Zambia, Mr. (Fara Doude), at State House. Mr. Chiluba noted that the Angolan Government and the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] rebels are (?extremely) involved in the talks. The Angolan peace talks are being held behind closed doors at the Mulungushi International Conference Center in Lusaka.

Zimbabwe**Cuban Foreign Minister Denies Arms Smuggling Charges***MB1601112194 London BBC World Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Jan 94*

[Text] The Cuban foreign minister, Roberto Robaina, who is on a tour of African states, has said that his country is seeking stronger economic ties with other countries to counter the United States' trade embargo and the loss of its Eastern European allies. Speaking in Zimbabwe, Mr. Robaina said Cuba was looking for markets for its raw materials, and for new supplies of oil to replace imports from the former Soviet Union. The Cuban foreign minister, who arrived in Harare from the Angolan capital, Luanda, denied reports that Cuba planned to negotiate the supply of arms to Angola.

Mugabe Frees 2 Officials Accused of Shooting Opponent*MB1601165794 Johannesburg Channel Africa Radio in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 94*

[Text] Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has pardoned and freed two officials who shot and nearly killed an opposition politician during the fiercely contested general election.

Mr. Mugabe ordered the release of an official in the secret Central Intelligence Organization, (Elias Khenagoni), and the provincial youth leader of the ruling ZANU (PF) [Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front] party, (Khezito Tshibambu). The two were last year sentenced to seven years in prison for shooting (Patrick Khumbayi), who was contesting a parliamentary seat against the vice-president Simon Muzenda in the 1990 election. They were pardoned hours after their appeal against their conviction was thrown out by the country's supreme court.

Rights Group Criticizes Pardon*MB1701194094 London BBC World Service in English 1740 GMT 17 Jan 94*

[From the "African News" program]

[Text] There has been a sharp criticism in Zimbabwe over President Mugabe's decision to pardon two men convicted of shooting a prominent opposition leader Patrick Kumbai in 1985. The pardon was granted shortly after the supreme court dismissed an appeal by the two men, one of whom was a senior intelligence officer. Zimbabwe's leading human rights organization said the pardon suggested that the shooting in which Mr. Kumbai was badly wounded had been authorized at a high level. It said there would also be grave implications for the relationship between the government and judiciary. Mr. Mugabe has not explained his decision.

Commerce Minister Dies in Car Accident 17 Jan

*MB1801095794 Johannesburg SAPA in English 0911
GMT 18 Jan 94*

[Text] Harare Jan 18 SAPA—Zimbabwe's Industry and Commerce Minister Chris Ushewokunze, 49, died in a car accident on Monday night, police said. Mr Ushewokunze was killed instantly in a head-on collision with an army vehicle at about 8PM near the town of Chegutu, 110km west of Harare.

Another unidentified person was killed in the accident and eight were injured, police said. Mr Ushewokunze was regarded as the leader of a group of young, educated ministers being groomed by President Robert Mugabe to succeed the older guard in the ruling ZANU [Zimbabwe African National Union] (PF [Patriotic Front]) Party, veterans of the campaign against white minority rule.

Observers say Mr Ushewokunze, who was related to Mr Mugabe, was a likely successor to ailing Finance Minister Bernard Chidzero. A lawyer who trained at the University of Rhodesia, Edinburgh University in Scotland and at London University, Mr Ushewokunze served [words indistinct] black Zimbabwean cabinet minister to visit South Africa on official business, flying to Cape Town last February to meet South African Finance Minister Derek Keys to discuss renewing the trade pact between the two countries.

Mr Ushewokunze leaves his wife, Juliet, and four children.

Cote d'Ivoire**Prime Minister Comments on Devaluation**

AB1701151094 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 15-16 Jan 94 pp 6-11

[Question and answer session following a news conference by Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan with local reporters in Abidjan on 14 January]

[Excerpts] [Noel Yao, REVEIL HEBDO] France has announced the cancellation of half of our debt. How does this measure reflect on the lives of Ivorians in concrete terms?

[Duncan] There are two levels of response to your question. First, when you owe, normally you must settle your debt. This debt will inevitably weigh on the use of your resources. However, since you have less to pay, you have fewer constraints on your resources, so you can use part of your resources to make new investments and even meet your everyday needs. This is the first aspect of my answer. In a more concrete way, this reduction of our debt will mean the cancellation of all the arrears Cote d'Ivoire owes to the French Development Fund, CFD. This is extremely important, because up until now we were not able to draw from this fund for the simple reason that we had not paid our arrears. We are now in a position to get disbursements from previous assistance.

For example, the CFD used to give assistance to the Abidjan transport company [SOTRA] with government support. In recent times the disbursements were stopped because Cote d'Ivoire had accumulated arrears. Very soon we will be able to get a disbursement of about 4 billion francs. You are undoubtedly aware that SOTRA has some problems; there are not enough buses. The government had to resort to additional borrowing of about 90 billion francs to have 150 buses repaired. New buses are needed, and now we have funds. This is one concrete element.

Another concrete result of this reduction of our debt on the lives of Ivorians will be in the textile sector. As you know, we reorganized the textile sector, which took us a lot of time. Long discussions took place between the government and the private sector for the partial privatization of the sector. The reorganization was to lead to the abolition of 800 out of 5,000 jobs. It was envisaged that after the sector had been revived reemployment would be conducted. All this necessitated about 11 billion francs from the CFD. The greater part of this amount has already been disbursed, and about 3.6 billion francs remain. Because of the state's arrears to the CFD, the remaining disbursement could not be made, so the reorganization program encountered problems. The situation was even more alarming because out of the remaining money 500 million francs was needed to resettle the laid off workers. [passage omitted]

[Yao] Let's talk a bit about the sovereignty of our countries. One has the feeling that the devaluation was

imposed on our heads of state without their being able to resist. Did this decision come from our leaders, or it was simply dictated to them by our partners?

[Duncan] I am going to put things bluntly: The decision to change the exchange rate of the CFA franc was made by the heads of state and governments of the 14 African countries. If the heads of state did not want devaluation, they said so. Don't you remember the in July 1992 in Paris they said no to devaluation? Are you saying that when they say no, it is their own decision, but when they say yes, then it is no longer their decision? We must be logical. One can say "no" at a given time and say "yes" at another time if new elements allow for a change of opinion. [passage omitted]

Among the international institutions, financial backers demanded conditionalities because they wanted to ensure that countries that come to them have the ability to repay their loans and have a good economic future, because it is economic situation of a country which enables it to generate resources to pay its external debt. [passage omitted]

Let us get this straight: The decision is not an imposed one. We opted for devaluation because it appeared to us to be the only way out of our crisis.

[Freedom Neruda, LA VOIE] Salaries have been frozen for 10 years now. It is obvious that the 5 to 10 percent salary increase is not enough. In Niger labor unionists have demanded a 70-percent salary increase. What does the government intend to do in order to have the crop purchase prices it has just set respected? Last year farmers were not protected enough against dubious purchasers.

[Duncan] We admit that the 5 to 15 percent salary increase is not enough. You said that Niger workers have demanded 70 percent, but how much did they obtain? This is what you should know first. The reality is willy-nilly. We announced soon after we returned from Washington that we would call on the nation for more efforts, and this was not a lie. It is obvious that if you increase salaries by 70 percent and producer prices by 100 percent your devaluation will be to no avail. It is like beating the air. Let us understand each other well: Salary increases should be low, otherwise your devaluation is to no avail, which means that there is no effect, and you should start all anew. One cannot do that. These are measures taken once for all.

Why is the increase in farmers' revenues more substantial? This is because they bore the brunt of the adjustment for a long time. You, wage earners, your salaries were frozen but not reduced. Elsewhere, salaries were cut, in addition to the devaluation. You cannot say that you were not defended enough.

It is therefore important for political parties and labor unions to understand that salaries cannot be increased beyond a given level, otherwise the operation become worthless.

Concerning the control of crop purchasing prices, we have set up an interministerial committee charged with monitoring the implementation of the various measures that we have just announced. Even before the devaluation, the minister of agriculture took measures to this effect. They must now be reinforced and checked.

In this sector and others, particular punitive measures will be taken against businessmen who do not respect the decisions made. In the past it was decided that farmers should participate in the commercialization of their produce. The guaranty funds will be increased substantially. Cooperative-oriented groups will therefore be given resources to play their role.

[James Cenac, NOUVEL HORIZON] Mr. Prime Minister, gas delivered by the Ivorian Refinery Company costs 48 CFA francs. The state gets 243 CFA francs for this gas, while pump retailers get nine CFA francs on it. Now that sacrifices are needed, isn't it possible for the state to use its margin to freeze the price of gas sold at filling stations, especially since the price of the commodity is linked to the dollar, which has depreciated over the past few days, and as there is a subsidy system in the price structure?

[Duncan] These are legitimate concerns which were much expected. You can imagine that these issues were examined, reexamined, and reviewed by the experts and the heads of state and government who made this decision. [passage omitted]

First, concerning gas, this is a major question. I can see that our friend James Cenac, went through enough documents to give figures. Except for some minor details, his figures are reliable. The answer is relatively simple. For a country to be developed, it must benefit from projects, and to finance them, it needs money. Where does this money come from—from taxpayers. Until further notice and before other types of measures are taken, this money will be taken from taxpayers. Actually, one of the means used to finance projects in Cote d'Ivoire is taxes on petroleum products, since a large part of these taxes go to the special investment and equipment budget to finance roads and the major projects in this country. This country's infrastructure was actually financed by these taxes. I worked in the Ministry of Finance, so I also have some figures. These taxes considerably contributed to financing projects in this country, particularly in the road sector. Of course, fewer taxes could have been raised by petroleum products.

[Duncan] If this had been done, however, we would probably have not attained the development level we have today. That is the reality of it. Oil taxes—and I will give you the figures—amounted at the time to between 80 and 100 billion CFA francs per year. They were substantial gains indeed, and that is what enabled the state to carry out investments.... That is what enabled the Special Investment and Equipment Budget (BSIE) to be maintained at a relatively acceptable level in order to

carry out normal maintenance, pay for recurrent expenditure, and make new investments despite the economic crisis. That is where the funds for all that came from. If you do not have that information, and I know you do, but since you asked the question for the benefit of the public, I would like you to know that these taxes were used to finance investments in our country.

You are saying that we could have reduced taxes to lessen the burden on the population. When studies were conducted at the beginning, partners for development suggested a 35-percent price increase for fuel. You are always complaining that decisions made with the IMF, banks, and development partners take a long time, so we are incompetent. We could have agreed to a 35-percent or even a 40-percent price increase. What would your reaction have been if that had been the case? [passage omitted]

The customs duty in Cote d'Ivoire is very high. It was increased as time went on to enable the state to earn revenue. It developed into a prohibitive customs duty and encouraged fraud. You are aware that for a few years now we have been trying to reduce customs duties. This has cost us a lot of money, but we are on the right track because the basic customs duties have been brought down to acceptable levels of around 35 percent. [passage omitted]

[Lebry, FRATERNITE MATIN] Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to ask you questions which are political and economic at the same time, since devaluation involves both aspects. The first question is this: You mentioned that representatives of the countries were truly unanimous in their decision during the summit. However, certain people expressed anxiety here and there, which seems to show that there was no true unanimity after all. What assurances do heads of state and prime ministers have that France will not abandon African countries? What assurances have African countries obtained or what promises have they received to confirm that this will not happen because they run the risk of being left in the lurch by France?

The second question is: At the moment, France is continuing to guarantee the CFA franc's convertibility. I would like you to return to that issue. In the long run, in light of France's wish to get a firm footing in Europe and in light of the weakness of African economies, and especially with pressure from Americans, a situation may arise in which France may pull away from backing the CFA franc. How do leaders of African countries intend to prepare African economies for such an eventuality?

[Duncan] As to whether the decision was unanimous, I can confirm that it was indeed unanimous. I am not the one making it up; you heard the communique. It was signed by all the heads of state and prime ministers who were in Dakar. That is what I am using as my reference. We insisted on everybody signing it. I have signed copies of the communique, which are proof of the fact that the

decision was unanimous. France delivered a very strong message at the summit, and I think everybody heard what Minister Roussin said there as well as what he later said on his return to France. The message was: It is not just the presidency, it is not just the French Government, it is France which is backing African countries of the franc zone in this operation. It is not backing them just politically, it is backing them economically and financially. The measures which have been announced are along those lines. I have already mentioned debt reduction, and I will give you the figures soon. There will also be financial assistance for development. The French fund has received instructions on that, and the Finance Ministry has begun contacts to determine how France is going to assist Cote d'Ivoire in carrying out investment.

This is not just empty talk; it is a political decision which has economic and financial repercussions. France has already assisted certain countries whose situation was particularly urgent with the payment of salaries. That decision was made right away. This goes to show that France is truly committed to assisting our countries. [passage omitted] Despite this commitment, before anything else, we must be responsible. In the first place, the future must depend on us and not on France. We must know this. We must first help ourselves, and France will help us later.

Concerning the issue of the guarantee for and the convertibility of the CFA franc, I probably have to explain it further for better understanding. At the time of independence, the desire to create our national currencies was expressed in our countries. Since self-determination is regarded as one of the most significant signs of sovereignty, it was suggested that it was necessary to create our own currency and manage it all alone. The issue was raised at the level of the former French West Africa and the former French Equatorial Africa. Here, the states felt that it was better to remain in a monetary union. This led to the creation of the monetary union for the West African and the Central African zones. Together these states created their currency, the CFA franc, the management of which could have been made independently, because we were six or seven countries that came together. This means not being connected to any external currency. It is a political choice that we could have made. [passage omitted]

Things went well from 1962 until 1980. [passage omitted] The crisis began in 1980, and the accounts which had surpluses began to diminish until they became negative. We had a surplus of between 100 and 200 billion. We later came to a deficit of 10, 20, 30, 100, and even 200 billion CFA francs at a certain time. The guarantee played a role in this case and the balance became positive again—even if not very significantly—at least by between 50 and 60 billion CFA francs in our zone. This was not quite sufficient, because it was necessary to go beyond the threshold of 20 percent. You see, assurance is a guarantee. Nobody is obliged to take to it, but at that time, you would be running a personal risk.

We feel that at any given time, one can successfully run such a risk when one's economy is well seated and diversified. This is the future you are talking about.

For what reason should we be attached to the European currency unit [ECU]? Look at the level of our trade with Europe. According to the statistics, we have between 60 to 70 percent trade with EEC countries. Why should we want to get attached to the ECU, which will be Europe's sole currency? Simply because, if we do so, we will become attached to the totality of the external partners. We can eventually do this without even asking for a guarantee from France. France can propose it, but what will this cost us? Will this help us?

Let us build the future for our children. Let us not make then run useless risks by seeking to create another currency apart from the CFA franc. We need to be prudent in politics. We need to have guarantees and envisage all the possibilities. We are not less free than those countries which have their own currencies. We speak with the same voice in international meetings and we are even better respected when we speak. Look at the delegations which were coming to Cote d'Ivoire when the late President Felix Houphouet-Boigny was receiving people here. You will also see the number of heads of state and government who will come here during his funeral. We need to avoid too much susceptibility in politics. The economy must predominate. [passage omitted]

[Roger Kouassi, FRATERNITE MATIN] Are we safe from further devaluation? With the devaluation, has the specter of retrenchment in the civil service been avoided forever? When prices are not displayed, can we really prevent abusive price increases?

[Duncan] You are right. It could happen that there is further devaluation. Unfortunately, this is what happens to the national currencies of most African countries. This happens when the rates of devaluation do not correspond with the imbalance. If we had set a rate of 25 percent, there probably would have been another devaluation a year later.

This is what surprised everybody, especially traders, who were expecting the devaluation but not at 50 percent. Provided that we are able to adopt the measures that I have mentioned concerning the control on the social demands (salaries) and provided that that we are able to respect the price increases, I am sure that we will succeed.

The total subsidy granted to help maintain prices at the level they are now has reached 30 billion CFA francs. I say that there will not be any subsequent devaluations. Concerning retrenchment in the civil service, because of the devaluation, there will not be any retrenchment. I only spoke about voluntary retirement.

If some people want to go on voluntary retirement from the civil service, we will help them do so by paying them

18 months' salary at the time of their departure. This is better than what has been achieved so far.

Concerning the listing of prices, the minister of commerce and industry spoke on the subject in order to avoid panic. He was to have hosted a news conference on 13 January, but I asked him to wait for mine first. Beginning next week the various ministers can hold theirs. I asked that the public sector-private sector liaison group be activated so that these issues could be discussed.

A commission will be set up on the issue of devaluation and hold consultations that could lead to practical solutions.

It is also worth noting that some time ago a decision was made on the liberalization of prices, except for the prices of a certain number of regulated products. This explains that there was no price control because an important section has been liberalized in order to encourage competition. In the decisions reached, the authorized products which will be subjected to special control were indicated.

The practical measures will be announced when the meeting takes place. Among other things, there will be measures indicating to the consumer the places and the telephone numbers where one can lodge complaints. These measures will be taken beginning next week, because the consumer is the real controller. We cannot put policemen in all the shops, but the consumer who notices any irregularity will be able to contact the ones who will be able to remedy the problem. [passage omitted]

[Gustave Nguessan, REVEIL HEBDO] Couldn't the search for competitiveness in Cote d'Ivoire because of the devaluation be hindered by competitive devaluation that could be introduced by neighboring Anglophone countries (Ghana and Nigeria)?

[Duncan] Due to the rate of devaluation, it is certain that we will be more competitive than these countries. Could there be a threat of a competitive devaluation? Let me remind you that the change in parity is managed by an international organization, namely the IMF, of which we are all members. The change in parity obeys some precise rules. The countries to which you refer are compelled to abide by these rules. The IMF will always have its say, which will help prevent competitive devaluations.

[Raymond Djadou, Bank Workers' Trade Union] I am Raymond Djadou, secretary general of the Bank and Financial Institutions Workers' Union of Cote d'Ivoire. Mr. Prime Minister, you mentioned an increase in salary in the public sector. Is the private sector concerned by this measure?

[Duncan] The workers' minimum salary and the agricultural workers' minimum salary are a guideline, but it is also true this is not the objective, because the private

sector is regulated by collective agreements. The case in point here is that the state gives directives and will later initiate discussions. On the other hand, the Employers' Association and others expressed the wish to meet us, so decisions will be made.

[Patrice Douh, IVOIR'SOIR] I would like to ask a two-fold question. On 19 and 20 April 1993, a seminar was held in Abidjan on the harmonization of corporate law in franc zone countries. While African states were studying reports that were submitted to them, the decision to devalue the CFA franc fell on their heads like a sword. Won't this hasty decision to devalue the CFA franc be a source of blockage at the exchange level between West African countries?

My second question is to know the level, in terms of quantity, of the exchange volume in the West African zone and in which proportion, taking into account the devaluation, exports will increase in this zone?

[Duncan] You just said that there was an April meeting in Abidjan on corporate law and that there has been a certain lack of preparedness in terms of devaluation that could jeopardize cooperation. First, I would like to say that there was no lack of preparedness. Just because governments did not talk about the devaluation in the streets does not mean that they did not study the question. I can assure you that no politician announces devaluation beforehand. I do not know of a single one who would do this. It is an operation that is carried out under the cover of night and generally while markets are closed and on weekends; then it is over. Therefore, there is no need to shout that we are going to devalue. This operation was well planned and thoroughly examined before a decision was made. I will tell you that this decision will strengthen cooperation within the zone and the cooperation with France. All commitments made here in Abidjan as related to the cooperation between African countries will continue as far as rights are concerned at the social security level and corporate law. You will see that all these documents will be swiftly examined and signed in the shortest possible time. [passage omitted]

[Goore-Bi-Hue, FRATERNITE MATIN] Mr. Prime Minister, you stated that devaluation will make households consume Ivorian-made goods. What measures will you take to ensure that households effectively consume quality goods, to ensure, for example, that locally manufactured rubber shoes last much longer and that Ivorian-made cloth does not rip after washing for a second or third time?

[Duncan] You are right in pointing this out. I think this must be the concern of all Ivorian industrialists. They should ensure that their goods are of good quality. The Ministry of Industry and Commerce, in cooperation with the private sector, has established the Ivorian Standards Board to ensure that goods manufactured in Cote d'Ivoire meet Ivorian standards. We must ensure that the goods leaving this country meet international

standards as far as quality is concerned. I think competition, which is now more open, will make buyers reject goods that are of low quality. As I told you, once this measure is taken, more industrialists will come back to Cote d'Ivoire....

[Ballo Lancine, Radio Cote d'Ivoire] Mr. Prime Minister, you spoke about 650 billion CFA francs that will be disbursed. Who will disburse this amount—the IMF, the World Bank, France? Is this another burden that is coming to put more weight upon the external debt?

[Duncan] The 650 billion CFA francs will mainly come from the IMF, of course. This money will come from major contributors, from development partners, from Japan, and so on. Some of them have already announced their commitment. You are asking whether this is going to put more weight on the Ivorian debt. Of course, these are elements of debts. What I can tell you at this stage is that these elements are at very concessional rates. As a result of this operation, Cote d'Ivoire becomes an International Development Association member country, that is, a country that can benefit from assistance at concessional rates from the World Bank. Thus, we can now receive more loans at extremely low rates like 0.5 percent repayable over lengthy periods, say 40 years. That is it. We will thus have the means for development.

As this is the last question, I would like to conclude this news conference by saying that we have made difficult decisions. This is a new start. This is a term used by a number of heads of state who spoke at the Dakar meeting. The statement issued by the president of the Republic pointed this out. Cote d'Ivoire and all its components—farmers, civil servants, the business community, housewives—must all feel involved in this decision. They should not see only its negative aspects, but rather the positive aspects that will enable Cote d'Ivoire to get out of the present rut in the near future. In summation, we are saying that Cote d'Ivoire must improve its competitiveness. Public finances must be improved, giving more means to the state. The possibility of developing businesses in Cote d'Ivoire must be improved, both at the level of national businessmen as well as foreign businessmen. The return of private capital that might have been placed abroad, if such does exist, will be made easier. It is essential that Cote d'Ivoire play its important card. We have some assets and we must ensure that they are well exploited. I have been asked in particular to tell you that the government and the president of the Republic are confident in the future, and that the president of the Republic and the government will work tirelessly so that we regain our growth rate within a reasonable period. This growth rate must reach and later exceed the 3.5 percent population growth rate. We must reach a 5.6 percent growth rate every month. We can achieve that within the coming two or three years. This is a message of hope. I think that Cote d'Ivoire has the human and material potential to attain this goal. Thank you.

Ghana

Government Presents Budget to Parliament

AB1501213194 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation
Radio Network in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Report on statement to parliament by the Finance Ministry on the 1994 budget—read by announcer]

[Text] The government has decided to raise the tax-free concession from 150,000 to 210,000 cedis per annum. The tax rate applicable to other lower income earners has also been reduced. This is to prevent individuals in the lower income group from being liable to higher taxes in view of the recent increase in the minimum wage. This was contained in this year's budget proposal presented to parliament today by the minister of finance, Dr. Kwesi Botchway.

Other tax rates on personal incomes are as follows: From 291,000 to 392,850 cedis will attract 5 percent; and 431,000 to 573,300 cedis, 10 percent. On indirect taxes and import duties on all goods which are imported under exemption and concessionary rates, will now attract a rate of 10 percent, while those classified as standard and luxury will now attract 25 percent. [sentence as heard]

In the case of sales tax, imports, the rates of goods classified as concessionary and standard have been reduced to 15 percent while those for luxury goods remain at 35 percent. Building materials will now attract a concessionary rate of 10 percent import duty. Dr. Botchway explained that this has become necessary in view of the gross abuse of the decision to remove all customs and import duties on certain building materials.

On the question of Ghana Investment Center concessions, the government is of the view that the exemptions of saloon cars, office equipment, and consumables are excessive and unnecessary for the effective promotion of investment in the country. In this regard, granting of these exemptions will be thoroughly reviewed.

Dr. Botchway said the government has also responded to the complaints of manufacturers by looking more closely at the structure of existing tariffs with a view to ensuring that there is no unintended but inherent discrimination against domestic producers. Therefore, finished imported commodities will in future not attract less taxes than the amount payable on their domestically produced equivalent merely by underdeclaration of value of the competing imports.

On petroleum duties, Dr. Botchway said an amount of 216.8 billion cedis has been projected as petroleum tax this year. And to obtain this revenue, it is proposed that petroleum prices be increased by an average of 18 percent and remove the subsidy on premix. The increase in the price of kerosene will be 10 percent.

Dr. Botchway explained that in view of the dramatic changes in the subregion, especially the devaluation of

the CFA [franc] and the policy changes in Nigeria, it would not be in the national interest to keep prices at the 1993 levels. He said for some time now, many importers have been buying all kinds of goods including second-hand or used goods into the country under the trade liberalization scheme. Some of these have proved to be harmful to the health of the users. Accordingly, he proposed the banning of secondhand goods such as undergarments, towels, socks, handkerchiefs, bedsheets, pillowcases, mattresses, and sanitary wear.

On general economic targets, Dr. Botchwey said real GDP [gross domestic product] is expected to grow by 5 percent and end of period inflation rate, 15 percent. An overall balance of payment surplus of \$180 million is to be achieved. A budget surplus of 68 billion cedis is also expected.

He said to achieve these targets and create the foundation for accelerated growth, it will be necessary to raise the investment-GDP ratio to at least 15 percent this year from 12.9 percent in 1992. This, he said, is to be financed by increases in domestic savings.

Consequently, the government's role in savings mobilization effort will be crucial, as it would be expected to reverse the huge fiscal deficits generated over the last two years into a substantial surplus to be channeled into productive investment in both the private and public sectors of the economy.

Dr. Botchwey said the 1994 budget provides for total appropriation of about 1,000 billion cedis, while total revenues including grants are projected at 1,078 billion cedis, (?implying) a surplus of 68 billion cedis. [as heard] He said to achieve this target, there is the need for further streamlining of the tax system, improvement in the efficiency of tax administration, reform of the tax structure, as well as the elimination of the lapses in tax administration.

With regard to expenditures, he said they have been programmed to support income-generating activities and poverty alleviation through income redistribution.

Total expenditures have been projected to rise from a provisional outturn in 1993, from 782.9 billion cedis to 1,000 billion—a rise of 29 percent. Recurrent expenditures will amount to 742.4 billion cedis compared to 596.6 billion in 1992. Expenditure on personal emoluments is to rise to 274.5 billion cedis from 227.6 billion.

Negotiations are to be conducted with the Civil Servants Association within the framework of the civil service machinery to determine the appropriate parameters for income policy for the year.

Outlays for repairs, maintenance, and renewals are projected to rise by 27.7 percent to 114.4 billion as against a provisional outturn of 91.1 billion cedis last year.

Dr. Botchwey said education and health sectors are to have larger allocations to enable them to improve upon their services. The education sector will be expected to

provide more textbooks and other accessories, while the health sector will concentrate on an accelerated rehabilitation of health facilities as well as the provision of adequate drugs and dressings.

He said the allocation for subvented organizations has been projected to rise to 95.1 billion from 75 billion in 1992—an increase of 26.8 percent. Also, transfers in respect of pensions, gratuities, and social security contributions are estimated at 79.7 billion compared to 64.8 billion in 1993—a rise of 22.9 percent.

Dr. Botchwey said interest on domestic debt is expected to rise from 91.9 billion cedis in 1993 to 114.2 billion in 1994. This increase, he said, is due to the large bank and nonbank borrowing to finance the deficit in 1993. Interest on external debt is to rise from 43.9 billion in 1993 to 61.3 billion in 1994. Dr. Botchwey explained that the increase is mainly due to expected exchange rate depreciation.

Foreign Minister Protests Abduction of Fishermen

AB1501154494 Accra Ghana Broadcasting Corporation Radio Network in English 1300 GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has registered a strong protest to the Togolese charge d'affaires in Ghana against the reported abduction by Togolese naval officers of seven Ghanaian fishermen who were on a fishing expedition at Aflaho, in Ghana's territorial waters. An official statement issued in Accra by the ministry said Ghana is demanding the immediate release of the fishermen and warned that it will hold the Togolese Government responsible for the safety of the abducted fishermen.

The ministry has, at the same time, requested Ghana's charge d'affaires in Togo to pursue the matter vigorously with the Togolese authorities and report back urgently.

Guinea

Government Says Recent ULIMO Attack Under Investigation

AB1701081094 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 13 Jan 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The Guinea Government has been perhaps surprisingly silent about the recent events of Macenta near the Liberia border. It is now clear that ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] forces crossed the border from Liberia and caused havoc in carnage in the Macenta region leaving, according to one estimate, 100 people dead. They were apparently carrying out reprisals against people backing the anti-ULIMO Loma Defense Force. Yesterday Liberia's interim president, Amos Sawyer, apologized for the

ULIMO incursion and today the Guinea authorities have responded. From Conakry, Fode Fofana telexed this report:

The Guinean Government has finally broken its silence on the Macenta affair, deploring, and I quote, the clash on our territory by warring factions in Liberia. [no reference to end of quote as heard] The statement issued after a cabinet meeting said that the government is taking very strong measures to protect our people and their property and calm has now returned to Macenta. According to the statement an investigation into the deadly clash is continuing and the findings will be made known internationally.

Meanwhile, in revenge for the attack on Macenta, a former member of parliament for Lofa County in Liberia, Musa Boney Camara, had his house and car burnt down in Bambala near the Liberian border. Camara is widely considered to be the ULIMO representative in the area. Another victim was Karamoko Modjenga, who is believed to be furnishing ULIMO fighters with traditional bullet-proofs and other invincible charms in their battle against Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia. Karamoko Modjenga had his house razed to the ground and his personal mosque built inside the compound was also destroyed.

Meanwhile, the people of Macenta, in solidarity with their Loma kith and kin in Liberia, have threatened to blow up the whole area if ULIMO is not completely driven out. A Guinean Loma elder in Conakry told me that they have been holding meetings here in Conakry and contributing generously toward this task.

Liberia

NPFL Partially Reopens Gbarnga-Monrovia Highway

AB1801121094 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT
17 Jan 94

[Text] Monrovia, 17 Jan (AFP)—Liberia's main armed faction, the National Patriotic Front (NPFL), has partially reopened the main highway between its headquarters in the eastern town of Gbarnga and the capital Monrovia.

The opening of the road, announced Monday by NPFL radio, was seen as more symbolic than meaningful, since rival factions from Liberia's three-year civil war are still moving towards demobilisation and disarmament.

A rival armed group, the United Liberation Movement (ULIMO), was still blocking traffic at Kakata, 55 kilometres (35 miles) north of Monrovia, on a stretch of the same highway where the NPFL roadblock was raised Saturday.

The ULIMO blockade was imposed in retaliation for the kidnapping last week of 11 ULIMO fighters, blamed by

ULIMO on Charles Taylor's NPFL, and a refusal by aid agencies to supply territory it controls in the north and west of Liberia.

The raising of the NPFL blockade was welcomed by Liberia's interim government, which controls the capital and its surrounding territory.

However, an official communique warned the step could only be a "significant contribution to peace" when all roadblocks and security checks are dismantled and control of roads is handed over to the multinational peace-keeping force ECOMOG.

A source close to the Nigerian-led ECOMOG, first posted in Liberia in August 1990, stressed that roadblocks should only be raised when disarmament had started.

Liberia has enjoyed a brittle peace since July when warring factions signed an agreement to lay down their arms and disband by mid-January.

Organisation of African Unity representative in Liberia Enoch Dogolea greeted the NPFL move with a call for the United Nations to speed up Liberia's peace process at a ceremony marking the highway opening.

More Fighting Noted Between Peace Council, NPFL

AB1601194894 London BBC World Service in English
1705 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Fighting between the Liberian Peace Council [LPC] and Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] has intensified in Sino County in the southeast of Liberia, and as Nii Artey Allison reports in this telex from Monrovia, the weekend's fighting saw the Peace Council making substantial advances against the NPFL. [read by announcer]

NPFL sources confirmed yesterday that the Liberian Peace Council overran Paynestown last week, bringing to six the number of main towns in Upper Sino County now under LPC control. A resident of NPFL territory told me yesterday that NPFL officials were trying to play down the losses. The NPFL named (Gettyporg), Po River, (Pankfield), Lexington, and Buto as other towns lost to the LPC in the last four weeks.

It was confirmed yesterday that Charles Taylor has replaced top battlefield commanders responsible for the Sino and Rivercess region to strengthen NPFL defenses in the area. According to several NPFL commandos whom I spoke with, the LPC had entered Sino County by amphibious landing craft to the port of Greenville.

Meanwhile, the NPFL reopened its portion of the Gbarnga to Kakata highway yesterday before a sizable crowd of residents from Gbarnga. United Nations staff and diplomats also attended the occasion at Kanela Mission School campus, 40 miles north of Monrovia.

The highway was closed when the NPFL attacked Monrovia in October 1992. However, the reopening of the NPFL section of the highway may make little difference since ULIMO [United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia] imposed a blockade on the highway some two weeks ago. Recently a 12-car convoy of UN staff, ambassadors from the United States, Lebanon, and Egypt, and journalists, including myself, were held up for two hours by ULIMO forces brandishing assault rifles and rocket propelled grenades. One ULIMO commander shouted: Turn back, turn back. You stupid people are the ones causing the problem here. The situation was later brought under control by the colonel in charge of the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] Kakata Command.

Niger

Price Hikes Noted in Niamey; Shops Closed in Regions

AB1501194194 Niamey Voix du Sahel Network in French 1200 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The devaluation of the CFA franc has brought price hikes in its wake. In the opinion of Alhaji Boubacar Bagourmi, secretary general of the National Union of Niger Traders, these unilateral price hikes are justified only if commercial agreements entered into are prior to the date of devaluation. Alhaji Bagourmi appealed to traders:

[Begin Bagourmi recording] There are several cases and situations, and each situation has its own case. Those who did not purchase their goods on credit but have bought them earlier should not take advantage of this situation to increase prices. Those who have already ordered and paid for their stock should not increase prices. [end recording]

In fact, the devaluation of the CFA franc continue to have ripple effects in the interior of the country. At Tillabery, all the shops have been closed since this morning, as Soumana Aboubacar, our correspondent in Tillabery, noticed.

[Begin Aboubacar recording] The panic created here and there by the devaluation of the CFA franc took time to reach Tillabery. Since this morning almost all of the meager economic activities in this small provincial capital have come to a standstill. A tour of the central market and along the main commercial streets enabled us to see that all the shops have closed. It is impossible to buy the smallest article from any shop if it was not bought the previous day. The only grocery shop which remains open, for the moment, is the Cash and Store. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Nigeria

Police Issue Warning Against Political Statements

AB1801121594 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 14 Jan 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] It is becoming increasingly obvious that General Sani Abacha's military regime in Nigeria will brook no public opposition. Already, protests by Ogoni people have been squashed and the leaders arrested. A rally by maverick businessman, Arthur Nzeribe, was interrupted by security forces, and now the police have issued a warning that the authorities will not accept any public political statements, which sounds ominously like a gag on freedom of speech. From Lagos, Sola Odunfa reports.

[Begin recording] The tough statement from Police Federal Headquarters in Abuja warned those described as members of the political class to stop making statements, which it said, were capable of threatening government's good intentions to bequeath a viable democratic institution in the country. The police said that it would not tolerate any further political statement at this period of a ban on political activities. It said that those who had positive contributions to make towards the political development of Nigeria should wait until the proposed constitutional conference commission was inaugurated or else risk arrest and possible prosecution.

Shortly before the statement was issued, about 50 armed policemen aborted the press conference called in Lagos by the leader of the Association for a Better Nigeria, Chief Arthur Nzeribe. The policemen turned back journalists from the venue, which ironically was the property of the Nigerian Union of Journalists. Later, Chief Nzeribe described the police action as unfortunate and he said that it undermined the very foundation of democracy. Last weekend, Chief Nzeribe said that the government of Gen. Sani Abacha was incapable of solving Nigeria's complex political crisis and it should therefore resign and hand over to a civilian government of national unity.

Two days ago, former presidential contestant, Major Gen. Shehu Musa Yar'Adua, called for the immediate restoration of the right to free association and free speech. Addressing journalists in Lagos, he suggested that the decisions of the proposed constitutional conference should not be subject to approval by the Provisional Ruling Council and he advised the military government to ensure that its tenure did not extend beyond the end of this year. Such statements are now covered by the police warning.

However, the government today constituted the National Constitutional Conference Commission. It has 19 members, most of whom are well-known politicians from across the country. It is headed by a retired justice of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, Alhaji Saidu Kawa.

The commission's terms of reference are expected to be announced at its formal inauguration next week. [end recording]

Cultural Accord Protocol Signed With Cuba

AB1801075094 Lagos Radio Nigeria Network in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Excerpt] Nigeria and Cuba, today in Lagos, signed the protocol for the implementation of the cultural and educational agreement between the two countries. Kobalakin Pong reports that the accord was signed on behalf of Nigeria by the minister of information and culture, Professor Jerry Gana, while the Cuban ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Giraldo Mazola, initialed the document for his country.

[Begin Pong recording] The agreement on cultural and educational cooperation between Nigeria and Cuba was signed in 1981. The accord, according to Prof. Gana, had brought more awareness of the benefits to be derived from closer economic, cultural, and educational cooperation between the two countries. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Constitutional Conference Members Appointed

AB1801074094 Kaduna Radio Nigeria in English 0900 GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] The 19-member commission to conduct the proposed constitutional conference will be inaugurated on Tuesday. The commission is headed by a retired judge, Mr. Justice Idu Kawu. The members include Alhaji Shehu Mailemu, Alhaji Sule Haman, Dr. Bachir Ikala, Chief Jingo Ibodo, Dr. Walter Ofole Goro, Mrs. Mariam Ikejiahe, Dr. Tunji Otegbeye, Chief Ayo Ogbolofami, and Mr. Joseph Wayes. Other members are Professor Ijioma, Chief C. A. Agbogi, Alhaji Shehu Musa, Mr. Audu Ogboe, Ambassador Yahaya Konde, Retired Major General I.B. Ohewuna, Dr. Ibrahim Tanio, and Alhaji Ali Tsiroma. Chief Debor Okandi a senior advocate of Nigeria, is to serve as secretary.

Members of the commission are expected to report at Sheraton Hotel tomorrow, Monday, where reservations have been made for them while those who choose to be present Tuesday by air will be received at the Abuja Airport and conveyed to the Government House.

Similarly, a panel has been set up to investigate the activities of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN. It will be inaugurated on Wednesday [19 January]. The panel is headed by a renowned economist, Dr. Paul Okigbe. Other members are Pascal Gboye, Dr. Omoru Muteneb, Dr. Yakubu Senke, Mrs. Bola Latinwo, Dr. Obong Opot Ikaite, and Chief Doto Oyekundeye.

Sierra Leone

Strasser Meets Diplomats; Government Achievements Noted

AB1801123094 Freetown SLBS Radio in English 2000 GMT 14 Jan 94

[Excerpt] The chairman of the National Provisional Ruling Council [NPRC] and head of state, Captain Valentine Strasser, has said that 1993 ended in an atmosphere characterized by a heightening of public confidence in Sierra Leone and the country's capacity to face the daunting challenges ahead. Speaking in Freetown this morning during his annual reception for heads of diplomatic missions and international organizations accredited to this country, Capt. Strasser said one of such challenges is the sustenance of that public confidence which is essential to the revival of meaningful investment in the private sector.

According to the head of state, the major preoccupations of the NPRC since the 29 April Revolution have basically been three-fold. These include the speedy conclusion of the rebel war, the structural reform of the economy to achieve sustainable growth, and the return to democratic constitutional rule. The NPRC government, he said, has recorded considerable progress although more will remain to be done.

Capt. Strasser explained how as evidence of his government's good faith and determination to effect an early end to the war, it had declared a unilateral cease-fire for four weeks and renewed the amnesty offered last December which was flagrantly violated by the rebels who are apparently not interested in peace. He said as [the] message of cease-fire and amnesty was not acceptable to most rebels, they used the cease-fire period to regroup and rearm for an offensive against government troops. The head of state used the opportunity to recall what he called the abiding appreciation of the government and people of Sierra Leone to all friendly countries and organizations who have helped (?in our efforts) in diverse ways.

Turning to the question of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the war-affected areas, Capt. Strasser appealed to the international community to augment and complement our scarce resources. He recalled the 26th of November last year when he launched the (?constitutional) program which heralded the irreversible process of returning this country to democratic civilian rule, culminating in elections in 1995.

Capt. Strasser assured his audience of the NPRC's determination to ensure that the transition program is not derailed and hoped that with the recent constitution of the electoral commission, donor countries and agencies will now be in a position to define their response to requests for assistance.

With regard to economic reform, the head of state said we have gone the extra mile towards fulfilling all of the

conditionalities imposed by the IMF and the World Bank. He maintained that having removed all the distortions and with the needed assistance, it is expected that the national economy will ultimately take off, bringing in its wake the restoration of social progress. Capt. Strasser said social progress was subject to less unfavorable conditions in externally economic environment and called for improved access of our products to the international market and the guarantee for fair and reasonable remuneration for our exports.

Capt. Strasser called for the globalization of the principle of aid for serious political reforms by the Group of Seven industrialized countries and emphasized that West African countries, more than any group, deserve to be (beneficiaries) of this new principle. He underscored our commitment to regional cooperation under the aegis of ECOWAS [Economic Community of West African States] and emphasized our (unflinching) support for the ECOWAS peace plan for Liberia. Capt. Strasser called on the warring factions to respect the accord and disarm and urged ECOMOG [ECOWAS Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] to put the buffer zone along the Sierra-Leone-Liberia border in place to prevent any further [word indistinct] border military activities. [passage omitted]

Togo

Government Freezes Oil Prices 'Until Further Notice'

AB1501135694 Lome Radio Lome in French 1230
GMT 15 Jan 94

[Text] The Ministry of Commerce and Transport announces that following a meeting with the Petroleum Products Group on 14 January 1994, and in view of safeguarding the interests of the Togolese consumers, it was decided that the prices of petroleum products will remain unchanged throughout the national territory until further notice.

Other Prices Restricted

AB1601161494 Lome Radio Lome in French 1230
GMT 16 Jan 94

[Text] Following the decision to devalue the CFA franc by 50 percent made at the Dakar summit by the 14 heads of state of African countries who are members of the franc zone, in order to ease the difficult short-term effects of the decision on the people, and while awaiting palliative measures currently being discussed, the minister of commerce and transport has issued the following statement:

First, the prices of the following essential goods are hereby frozen as of 11 January 1994 until further notice: rice, salt, sugar, flour, vegetable cooking oil, liquid milk,

powdered milk, canned milk, pasta, eggs, couscous, tomato paste, butane gas, imported sewing machines, and (iron).

Second, the same measures are applied to the following sensitive products: pharmaceutical products, school equipment, sardines, canned pilchard fish, and frozen fish.

Third, importers and wholesalers are requested to declare the prices of their goods to the internal trade department as well as the bulk of their stock as of 16 January 1994. All supplies within this period should be declared at the Internal Trade and Price Control Department as well as having the authorization to be sold.

Fourth, it is forbidden to sell existing stocks at wholesale prices or to export them out of the national territory. These stocks should be reserved for the use of the people for internal consumption and sold exclusively at retail prices.

Fifth, these measures also apply to the following local manufactured goods: cement, iron rods, galvanized roofing sheets, wheat flour, pasta, cooking oil, and pipes.

Sixth, all financial backers are reminded that any change in the prices of these products should have prior sales authorization given by the Ministry of Commerce and Transport.

Labor Union Reacts to Price Hikes After Devaluation

AB1701180694 Lome Radio Lome in French 1230
GMT 17 Jan 94

[Text] After the reaction of the Confederation of Workers' Trade Unions on the devaluation of the CFA franc, it is the turn of the National Confederation of Workers of Togo, CNTT, to express their view on the devaluation of the CFA franc. Mr. Douevi Tchiviakou, secretary general of the CNTT, spoke to us about the CNTT's anxieties.

[Begin Tchiviakou recording] We have observed price hikes in basic food items. Some shops have even closed down for speculation purposes. The serious consequences of this decision is the loss of purchasing power of workers who are already hard hit by the economic crisis. That is why, in order to avoid social explosion, the National Confederation of Workers of Togo calls on all workers to remain calm in order to enable to take the necessary contacts with the government and businessmen so that the backup measures already announced can effectively be implemented.

Furthermore, the CNTT calls on the government and businessmen to expedite action in bringing down price hikes presently noted in some shops and in the markets. [end recording]

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